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Youth, ICTs and Political Engagements in Asia
COUNTRY BACKGROUND REPORT

***By:**

Weiyu Zhang (Singapore)
Joanne Lim Bee Yin (Malaysia)
Clarissa David (Philippines)
P. Vigneswara Ilavarasan (India)
Ahmed Swapan Mahmud (Bangladesh)
Sagara Chandrasekara (Sri Lanka)

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Bangladesh

Rawshon Akhter
Mohammad Sahid Ullah
Department of Communication and Journalism
Chittagong University, Chittagong-4331

Population (2011)

Total Population: 142,319 thousand (2011-03-15)*

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Population Census Wing.

Source <http://www.geohive.com/cntry/bangladesh.aspx>

**Note: 2011 census figures are based on preliminary results.*

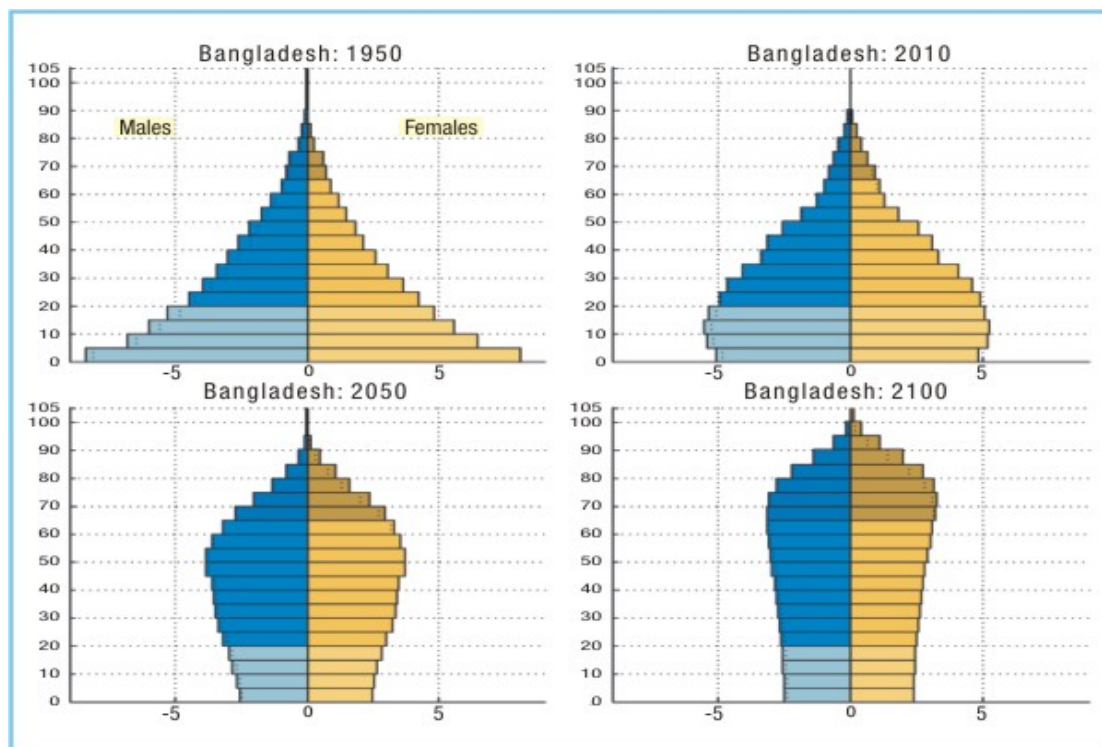
Youth Population (Bangladesh consider Age 18-35 as youth group)

The average age of Bangladesh population is 24.5 years (World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, UN Population Division).

15-24 years 20.1 percent

National Foundation of Youth of Bangladesh (NFYB) reports there are 450 million people aged 18-35 years.

Source: http://www.banbeis.gov.bd/bd_pro.htm



Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/forum/2011/July/people.htm>

Per capita GDP, GNI and NNI at Current Prices, 2004-05 to 2008-09

GDP: 47,106 (US\$ millions)
GDP per capita was US\$ 624 for 2010

Source: http://www.bbs.gov.bd/WebTestApplication/userfiles/Image/SubjectMatterDataIndex/GDP_2008_09.pdf

GDP - real growth rate: 6% (2010 estimated)

Definition: This entry gives GDP growth on an annual basis adjusted for inflation and expressed as a percent.

Source: CIA World Factbook - Unless otherwise noted, information in this page is accurate as of July 12, 2011

Literacy rate (15+)

Literacy: Definition: age 15 and over can read and write

Total population: 43.1% (Male: 53.9% and Female: 31.8% (2003 est.)

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Bangladesh

Internet Penetration rate: (June 2011)

1.1% penetration (1,735,020 Internet users as of June/11)

Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/asia.htm#bd>

Computer ownership: (June 2010)

Computer ownership per 100 people: 0.782

Source: <http://www.shidhulai.org/bangladesh.html>

Mobile Phone (June 2010)

37%, Bangladesh's mobile market passed 60 million subscribers by June 2010.

Source: <https://www.budde.com.au/Research/Bangladesh-Telecoms-Mobile-Broadband-and-Forecasts.html?r=51>

Computer Literacy: NA

Policies regarding political engagement:

Government Regulations and Statutes

1. Constitution of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh:

Part II: Fundamental Principles of State Policy

Part III: Fundamental Rights

Part IV: The Executive Chapter I - The President

Part V: The Legislature Chapter I-Parliament

Part VI: The Judiciary

Part VII: Elections

Source: <http://www.commonlii.org/bd/legis/const/2004/index.html>

2. Parliamentary Elections Act

Representation of the People (Amendment) Order Act, 2009

Detail: <http://www.ecs.gov.bd/MenuExternalFilesEng/262.pdf>

Member of Parliament (Determination of Dispute) Act, 1980

Detail: <http://www.ecs.gov.bd/MenuExternalFilesEng/276.pdf>

3. Political Party Registration Rules, 2008 [Bangla]

Detail: <http://www.ecs.gov.bd/MenuExternalFilesEng/238.pdf>

4. Presidential Elections Act 1991

Detail: http://www.ecs.gov.bd/MenuExternalFilesEng/Pres_law.pdf

Policies regarding Mass Media and New Media

National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy

Detail: http://www.btrc.gov.bd/policy/ICT_Policy_2002.pdf

National Broadband Policy 2009

Detail: http://www.btrc.gov.bd/policy/National_Broadband_Policy_2009.pdf

National Telecommunications Policy 1998

Detail: http://www.btrc.gov.bd/policy/Telecom_Policy_1998.pdf

International Long Distance Telecommunications Services (ILDTS) Policy, 2010

Detail: http://www.btrc.gov.bd/policy/ILDTS_Policy_2010_english.pdf

Amendment 2010 of Telecommunication Act 2001

Detail:

http://www.btrc.gov.bd/legislation/acts/Amendment%282010%29_of_Telecommunication_Act_Bangla_2001.pdf

Arts Entertainment: NA

Films and Videos:

The Bangladesh Censorship of Films Rules 1977

Source: <http://www.fcb-bd.org/>

The Censorship of Films Act 1963 (Act No XVII)

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=334

The Cinematograph Act, 1918 (Act No: II)

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=108

The Film Clubs (Registration and Regulation) Act, 1980 (Act No: XXVIII)

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=606

The Film Development Corporation Act, 1957 (East Pakistan Act) (Act no XV)

Details: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=273

Publications:

The Printing Publication (Declaration and Registration) Act 1973 (Act no XXIII)

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=437

Advertisement:

The Indecent Advertisements Prohibition Act, 1963 (Act No: XII)

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=333

Radio:

The National Broadcasting Authority Ordinance, 1988

Detail: <http://www.betar.org.bd/Documents/RulesRegulation.pdf>

Bangladesh Betar Authority Act 2001 (Act No: LIV) in Bangla

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/bangla_pdf_part.php?id=878

FM Radio Act in Bangla (Private FM Radio Station Establishment and Function Policies -2010)

Detail: http://www.moi.gov.bd/Radio/F.M._Radio.pdf

Television:

Bangladesh Television Authority Act 2001 (Act No LV) in Bangla

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/bangla_pdf_part.php?id=879

Territorial Telecast Preservation Act for Bangladesh Television Act 2009 (Act no VII)
in Bangla

Detail: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/bangla_pdf_part.php?id=1022

Policies regarding New Media

To build an ICT-driven nation comprising of knowledge-based society by the year 2006, Bangladesh government promulgated the National Information and Communication Technology Policy 2002. In addition, to make the nation- Digital Bangladesh- by the year 2020, a country-wide ICT-infrastructure is developing to ensure access to information by every citizen to facilitate empowerment of people and enhance democratic values and norms for sustainable economic development by using the infrastructure for human resources development, governance, e-commerce, banking, public utility services and all sorts of on-line ICT-enabled services. Rural ICT centre and information centre are the best example of the initiative. The policy recommends exempting any kind of taxes from ICT equipment.

Detail: <http://www.sdnbd.org/sdi/issues/IT-computer/itpolicy-bd-2002.htm>

Encountering different problems and misuse of new media particularly, mobile phone, digital camera with cell phone handset and laptop, and computer with internet connection, Law Commission of Bangladesh recommend the ‘Law of Information Technology Act 2010’ to the government and it is under consideration of the government to pass in the parliament.

Detail: <http://www.lawcommissionbangladesh.org/wplit.pdf>

Youth Policies

The youth constitute one third of total population in Bangladesh. For this important portion of population, determination of national outlook is undeniable. The Directorate of Youth Development mentions that the history of Bangladesh is enlightened by the heroic contribution of the youth. Youth of the country played vital role in the language movement of 1952, mass upsurge of 1969, liberation war of 1971 and in all crisis after liberation. It is indispensable to encourage the youth in light of their glorious history of the past (Islam: 2011). The National Youth Policy 2003 (Detail: <http://www.youth-policy.com/policies/BGDnyp1.pdf>) considers the youth are the most strong, self-confident, creative and productive guiding force of any nation. It is possible to reflect hopes and aspirations of a nation through the youth. The endless potential of the youth shall be utilized for their own, for the society and for the nation. Development of a nation is totally dependent on the spirit & urge of work of the youth. According to this National Youth Policy all Bangladeshi citizens aging 18-35 years shall be treated as youth. Directorate of Youths under the Ministry of Youths and Sports is responsible to implement different projects since 1981. All funds relation to youth development must spend as per the rules of the Youth Welfare Fund Ordinance 1985 (Act no XL). The youth policy underlines following regulations and acts to youths. According to the constitution any youth above 18 have the voting power and can engage politics.

Smoking: The Juvenile Smoking Act –II (1919); under this act before 18 years of age no person can smoke in public place and sale of cigarette or any other tobacco are prohibitive under 18 years of age.

Drugs and Alcohol: Consumption of drugs and alcohol are banned in Bangladesh under The Drugs (Control) Ordinance 1982 (Act No: VIII) and The Drugs (Supplementary Provisions) Ordinance 1986 (Act No: XIII).

Marriage: To get marriage a youth male must reach 21 years of age and female is 18 years in any religion. Any extramarital sex is strictly prohibited and considered crime, but it is not punishable crime till there is no allegation from any side.

Historical Development of Mass Media

Print Media: Media trends passed three stages during last four decades since the independence of Bangladesh after a bloodshed war in 1971. Those are the pioneering, the institutional and the corporate with some significant crises and developments. In the pioneering stage, newspapers owed their emergence mostly to the social, political literacy, or cultural passion of some individuals. These were enterprising and selfless idealists coming generally from not too affluent middle-class backgrounds who demonstrated extraordinary courage and imagination in bringing out of publications under almost impossible circumstances. *Dainik Ittefaq*, *Dainik Sangbad*, The Bangladesh Observer are the pioneer example of the individualistic efforts from capital Dhaka and *Dainik Azadi* from Chittagong, *Dainik Korotoa* and *Dainik Jonmabhum* from Bagura and Khulna respectively. The ownership pattern of these newspapers was highly individualistic and non-institutional.

In the institutional stage, a few newspapers with high circulation grew into institutions, with their founders' helm of affairs. Leading dailies *Dainik Ittefaq*, *Dainik Sangbad*, *Dainik Bhorer Kagoj*, *Dainik Inqilab* and The Bangladesh Observer and The New Age including three regional dailies carries such prestige. In the corporate stage, the institutional newspapers plunged into new and varied publications. The corporate or group of publication lent a media organisation more resilience, greater weight and influence, and a higher scope for developing in both quality and content. All the leading newspapers e.g., *Dainik Prothom Alo*, *Dainik Janakhantha*, *Dainik Kalerkhontho*, *Dainik Jugantar*, *Dainik Amardesh*, *Dainik Jai Jai Din*, The Daily Star, The Independent, The Sun, three radio stations and all private television channels are now functioning under corporate control.

Bangladesh experienced a boom of newspaper after the fall of autocratic regime in 1990s. Since the fall of autocratic rule and restoration of democratic government in 1991, press in Bangladesh has been enjoying an acceptable level freedom with some self-censorship. Chief of the Caretaker Government in 1991 ensured the press freedom through the amendment of the Printing Press and Publication (Registration and Declaration) Act-1973. Besides, the Caretaker Government relaxed governmental control over declaration of newspapers, which during the autocratic regime was almost banned. The relaxation of declaration process led mushrooming of newspapers. But within a short span of time, the owners of newspapers who had been dreaming of

newspaper industry as a profitable venture became frustrated. Barring a few dailies and weeklies almost all newly published newspapers had to face a severe financial crisis. Most of them failed to pay wages to their journalists and more than 95 percent newspapers also failed to implement the Wage Board award. As a result most of the newspapers listed during the Caretaker Government of 1991 found defunct within few years (Shoosmith and Mahmud (2007)). In line with privatization policy the Awami League government sold the state-owned newspaper- '*Dainik Bangla*', '*Bangladesh Times*' and weekly '*Bichitra*'. At present Bangladesh has no state- owned newspaper, which was part of the press system in Bangladesh till 1997. '*Bichitra*' with a new editorial set up began its publication since 1998 as a private- owned magazine. The other influential weeklies are '*Saptahik-2000*' and '*Robbar*' etc.

Department of Films and Publication (DFP) registered 990 newspapers and periodicals including 328 dailies, 377 weeklies and 161 monthlies in 2011. However, six dailies in English and a dozen in Bangla constitute the quality print media. Most of the newspapers are published from the capital city Dhaka and other key cities like Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. The major vernacular dailies in the country are the '*Ittefaq*', '*Prothom Alo*', '*Janakantha*', '*Kalerkhontha*', '*Samakal*' '*Inqilab*', '*Bhorer Kagoi*', '*Jugantar*', '*Sangbad*', '*Amar Desh*', '*Nayadigonta*' and '*Jai Jai Din*'. The main English dailies include, '*The Daily Star*', '*The Independent*', '*The Financial Express*', '*The Sun*', '*The New Nation*', '*The New Age*', '*The News Today*', and '*The Bangladesh Today*'. The tabloid- format- *Dainik Manavzamin* is also very popular among a section of readers.

Both Bengali and English language dailies and periodicals are read widely. Media Survey in 2008 reported that a total of 9.3 percent people read newspapers regularly where as the exposure of total newspaper were 25.7 percent. As of December 31, 2008 the total circulation of newspapers and periodicals were 6.85 million and circulation of daily newspapers was 2.7 million according to Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) report. The most significant aspect of the growth of newspapers and periodicals in the country is that it is both qualitative and quantitative. Growth of regional newspapers in recent years also increased significantly. ABC report says a total of 83 dailies are publishing from Dhaka at present. Out of them 11 dailies are in English language, seven are from Dhaka, three from port city of Chittagong and the rest one from Khulna. In true sense, only 20 to 25 daily newspapers and 10 to 12 magazines are being published regularly. Of them only 6 to 8 newspapers and magazines used to pay salary and wages to their journalists regularly. Many old and influential newspapers – '*The Bangladesh Observer*' and '*Dainik Ajker Kagoj*' faced financial constraint due to absence of a required advertisement market and discontinued their publication.

Use of modern technology in print media is one of the significant developments. All national dailies use multi-colours. Information technology makes it easier to gather news and other related material quickly in a very cheaper price. Bangladesh successfully uses these modern technologies in press industries. In addition, with the rapid growth of globalisation and conglomeration of capitalism, corporate journalism has toppled the mission and professionalisation in recent times where industrialists invest huge capitals to run the media industry, thereby making the profession a defense instrument for their other business interest- thereby depriving journalism of its traditional values- fourth state, freedom, objective public service, good governance and, finally, the mission.

Broadcast Media: Bangladesh has three tiers; state- run radio and television, private-owned commercial radio and television and community radio. Grounding in 1939 Bangladesh Betar (official name of the state-run radio) crossed a history of 60 years with its single state- run channel now covers total territory with its 15 stations across the country. There are six private radio stations- Radio Today, Radio Furti and Radio Metro, Radio Amar and the BBC-Dhaka transmitting their programmes through FM band surrounding Dhaka and Chittagong.

Bangladesh Betar including its seven-language external services beamed around 170 hours of its programme per day. Forty-four news bulletins with national, local including nine in external services go on air everyday as a wing of the Ministry of Information. The percentage of spoken words broadcast is 55 and the musical programme is 45. Though, all private channels bear considerable popularity among the city dwellers, particularly teenaged, Bangladesh Betar has very low popularity due to its credibility and poor quality programme contents and presentations are concerned. According to official data around 2.39 million licensed radio sets had been used throughout the country that means around 35 percent households have radio (Ullah, 2010:3).

Television industry in Bangladesh is growing rapidly, with new channels going on the air every few months. There are currently 14 private channels in operation and a few on test transmissions along with state run Bangladesh Television (BTV) and more are reportedly awaiting government permission to launch soon. At least 70 satellite channels including the BTV world could be accessed through cable connection network. Television station was inaugurated in Dhaka in 1964. After independence BTV started functioning independently. It started colour transmission in 1980, and BTV world-satellite channel in 2004 for the non-resident Bangalee viewers across the world. BTV has two stations in Dhaka and Chittagong and 11 relay stations throughout the country. It telecast about 78 hours programmes every week of which about 18 percent is news, 20 percent entertainment, 16 percent educational and 5 percent development programmes (Ullah: 2010:4). The BTV Dhaka station has a radius of about 96 Km. The relay and two satellite earth stations- Bethbonia and Talibabad have enabled the expansion of BTV coverage to almost hundred percent of the population. BTV's second channel in Chittagong-CTV originates and transmits an hour programme daily with its 30 minutes feed on the national network.

The first terrestrial private television 'Ekushey Television' (ETV) was launched in April 2000. After the installation of this station a healthy competition ensued and the state-owned television has bound to improve the quality of programmes. Later on in 2002 government cancelled the license of ETV following a court verdict alleging that the authority did not properly handle licensing process during the permission. BTV bound to change news presentation style to compete with ETV, because news presentation by ETV had achieved trust and gained reliability among the common audience. The channel sparked a revolution in television journalism. The objective, a deeply analytical, interpretative and investigative report by a bunch of young and enthusiastic journalists has a serious impact on society. Reporting reached an international standard and for the first time reporters enjoyed stardom. ETV immensely encouraged women towards journalism as a profession. (Khan: 2008:106)

Before ETV, Asia Television Network (ATN-Bangla) launched its transmission on July15, 1997 as the first Bangla private satellite channel with an aim of telecasting news

and programmes in Bangla to be viewed in more than 100 countries, and the first digital satellite channel, Channel i started its journey on October 1, 1999. Another satellite channel Ntv was launched on July 3, 2003 with the modern technical support and the trained crew of ETV, Channel-S, Boishaki, Rtv, Banglavisio and Channel-1. ETV with the permission from the High court began its telecast again in 2007, but could not regain its earlier popularity with all new comers. The first 24 hours news channel CSB news gets its popularity aftermath its inception in 2006, during the political impasses and state of emergency for its constant coverage of news event. The other popular new comers during 2009-10 are Somoy Tv, Independent Tv, Channel-one, Machranga Tv, Mohana Tv etc.

Autonomy to radio along with state-run television was a popular political agenda during the autocratic government in 90s. Among the factors that account for not ensuring autonomy in radio and television are policies of control by the political parties in power and financial problems of media resulting mainly from a paucity of advertising. Recently the demand for community radio has been augmented among various civil society activists, rights group and 14 NGOs have got permission to set up community radio stations by September 2011.

Government permitted launching private dish antenna and cable connection in the country after introducing Cable News Network (CNN) and BBC transmission through BTV in 1992. Cable television has become a popular medium for dissemination of entertaining programming affecting peoples' daily habit. The country has now more than 15 million cable and satellite home with about three thousand cable operators offering their services both in urban and rural areas. More and more people in remote areas are coming under the preview of satellite television. The access to television is increasing rapidly throughout the country during last few years. Television sets are found even at the remote village and the viewership increasing swiftly both in urban and rural areas. In 1995 countrywide television viewership was recorded as 31 percent while in 2002 it reached at 61 percent and 78 percent in 2010.

New Media: Bangladesh entered in the age of optical fiber through connecting its Internet network with the SEA- ME- WE project in 2005. Around 17 million people are now connected with the information super highway through Broadband and Dialup network. At least half million people are connected with the Internet facilities and the number is growing day by day through countrywide 30 Internet Service Providers (ISP), who use 42 Very Small Apparatus Terminal (VSAT) terminals that the BTTB has established to facilitate high speed data communication service. The current major ISPs are Agni Systems, BRAC BDmail Network, Global Information Network, Grameen Cybernet, Information Service Network, Prosikanet, Bangladesh Online Internet Service, Pimedia, Spectranet and PreDeshta.

Mobile Internet is the latest addition in the country gaining popularly with fast increase of mobile phone among urban youths and elites. More then three thousand Cyber café in cities and sub-urban areas including a number of Internet centre in the rural areas has a very good prospect for Internet connections like mobile phone across the rural areas. Bangladesh government removed all regulatory bars to set up VSAT in the private sector in 1996 resulting online Internet service began in 1996. BTTB is now implementing a programme of bringing all 64 districts under Internet connection. Considering ICT is the

‘thrust sector’ the government adopted a National ICT policy in 2002. The policy boosts ICT related activities including introduction of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system and establishment of IT village near Dhaka. Most of the major vernaculars including Bangladesh Betar are now accessible through web. Besides all major phone companies introduced a news service amongst its subscribers.

It was in 1964 when the first computer IBM 1620 was landed in Bangladesh for the use of scientists of Atomic Energy Commission. But at that time the use of computer was very limited. It was gaining popularity during early '80s and took a boost in '90s. Bangladesh government is promoting rapid expansion of computer technology in the country. At present IT sector in Bangladesh is enjoying a cent percent tax exemption. With the patronisation by the government IT has become popular in all strata of development activities. Separate IT departments were opened in different technical and general universities across the country. Besides, there is a large number of world class IT organisations are providing IT education in Bangladesh. To supplement the IT business in Bangladesh government formed Bangladesh Computer Council. Besides, there are a number of professional bodies in IT sector in Bangladesh. Internet, cyber cafe and computer kiosk are developing fast, particularly in metropolis. The demand for computer education also has been increasing day by day. By participating in the global information network Bangladesh adds value to the rest of the world, also get benefit from the ability to use the network to communicate and trade with all other user countries.

Political Culture and Climate

Bangladesh is a pre-dominantly Muslim country in Southeast Asia. The key feature of Bangladeshi politics is the rivalry between the two major political parties - the Awami League (AL) and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Bangladesh achieved independence in 1971 after a long and bitter liberation war waged against Pakistan. Shortly thereafter, a democratic government and a liberal constitution were adopted and a general election was held the following year. However, democratic progress was quickly curtailed when a trend towards authoritarianism began with one party rule in 1975 and endured for 16 years. Eventually this regime was toppled in 1991, but the road to democracy has been long and hard fought because of confrontation between these two rival political parties.

After military rule ended and democracy was reintroduced in 1990-91, Bangladesh Nationalist Party ruled from 1991-1996, Awami League from 1996-2001, and BNP again in 2001-2006 with a little break by Arms force back Caretaker Government (2007-2008) and AL again from 2009. The two rely to some extent on alliances with a series of other minor parties in order to secure majorities in the first-past-the-post electoral system that the country has adopted. These other parties include the highly fragmented Jatiyo Party (established during the last military regime), various Islamic parties including the Jamaat-e- Islami, and a range of leftist parties.

Bangladesh is a bi-partisan dynastic political country which bears a number of negative characteristics. ‘Politics of intransigence’, ‘Desperately seeking a responsible opposition’, ‘Imperilled democracy’, ‘Destructive politics’, ‘Spiralling lawlessness’, and ‘Confrontational political culture’. Democratic consolidation in Bangladesh has gone off-track and the political system continues to be illiberal or at best quasi-liberal. These negative characteristics refer to consequences of the rivalry between the country’s two dominant parties. These two parties have alternated in power since the return of

democracy in 1991, a period which has seen drawn out opposition boycotts of parliament, a high incidence of opposition initiated general strikes, and increasing suppression of the opposition by the government. This is a politics of confrontation as it has been called, has grown into a frightening scale and is causing havoc on the nation's democracy and economic advancement.

The problem of governance in Bangladesh is deeply rooted in the country's historical experience and the behaviour and values of the elite. Kochanek (2000:3) mentions patrimonial politics and patron-client relationships as among the main elements that deny a fair chance to the parliamentary system. The elite in the country is relatively small and recent, but it has strong roots in the countryside where it has the mainstay of its popular support. Within the elite, 'leadership is highly personalized, based on patrimonial authority and loyalty, and maintained through a complex, informal network of patron-client relations'. It is the strength of the patron-client relationships and of patrimonial politics which prevent the formation of horizontal relationships and larger class-based or corporate ties. The patron-client relationships are formed within a moral universe that legitimizes hierarchy and the right or obligation of the superior to be superior and protect the lesser. Leaders are expected to be authoritarian and authority becomes highly personalized in this political culture.

The international anti-corruption organisation Transparency International has put Bangladesh on top of several of its yearly list of most corrupt countries, and Amnesty International states in its report for 2010 that both torture and police brutality were widespread in the country. Amnesty's report highlighted political violence in particular, stating that 'Dozens of people died in violence during and after local elections...' and that 'Several opposition politicians were assassinated'.

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India

P. Vigneswara Ilavarasan
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Statistics

Item	India
GDP at factor cost (US\$ billion) at 1999–00 prices	777.74 (for 2007–08) ^{#@}
GDP at factor cost (US\$ billion) at current prices	1073.75 (for 2007–08) ^{#@}
Per capita GNP at factor cost (US\$) at 1999–00 prices	680.18 (for 2007–08) ^{#@}
GDP at factor cost 1990-91–2007-08 % at 1999–00 prices	6.07 (CAGR) [#]
Population (million)	1138 (for 2007–08) [#]
Youth population	41.05 % of 1.17 billion (13-35 Yrs) [^]
Literacy rate in 2001 ⁺	Overall - 64.84 %; Males - 75.26 % Females 53.67 %
Mobile Phone penetration	391.76 million (2009) ^{&}
Internet penetration	139.58 Million (2009) [*]
Computer ownership per 100 in 2007	3.3 ⁺⁺

Note:

[#] National Account Statistics Reports – 2009 and 1980-81–1992-93.

[@]: Exchange rate: Rs. 40.2410/US\$ 1 (Average exchange rate for 2007–08).

[^] <http://www.youthportal.gov.in/statistics/YouthPopulationinIndia-2001Inthousands.htm> [&] <http://www.trai.gov.in/annualreport/TRAIAR2008-09E.pdf>

^{*} <http://www.trai.gov.in/annualreport/TRAIAR2008-09E.pdf>

⁺ *India 2009*, (2010) Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India.

⁺⁺ World Bank, World Development Indicators.

Indian Polity¹

INDIA, a Union of States, is a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system of government. The Republic is governed in terms of the Constitution, which was adopted by Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950.

The Constitution which envisages parliamentary form of government is federal in structure with unitary features. The President of India is constitutional head of executive of the Union. Article 74(1) of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as head to aid and advise President who shall in exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. Real executive power thus vests in Council of Ministers with Prime Minister as head. Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of the People (Lok Sabha). Similarly, in states, Governor is head of executive, but it is the Council of Ministers with Chief Minister as head in whom real executive power vests. Council of Ministers of a state is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly. The Constitution distributes legislative power between Parliament and state legislatures and provides for vesting of residual powers in Parliament. Power to amend the Constitution also vests in Parliament. The Constitution has provision for independence of judiciary, Comptroller and Auditor-General, Public Service Commissions and Chief Election Commissioner.

CITIZENSHIP

The Constitution of India provides for a single citizenship for the whole of India. Every person who was at the commencement of the Constitution (26 January 1950) domiciled in the territory of India and: (a) who was born in India; or (b) either of whose parents was born in India; or (c) who has been ordinarily resident in India for not less than five years became a citizen of India. The Citizenship Act, 1955, deals with matters relating to acquisition, determination and termination of Indian citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights which are justiciable. Article 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights. These are : (i) right to equality including equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and equality of opportunity in matters of employment; (ii) right to freedom of speech and expression; assembly; association or union; movement; residence; and right to practice any profession or occupation (some of these rights are subject to security of the State, friendly relations with foreign countries, public order, decency or morality); (iii) right against exploitation, prohibiting all forms of forced labour, child labour and traffic in human beings; (iv) right to freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion; (v) right of any section of citizens to conserve their culture, language or script and right of minorities to establish and

¹ Most of the content in this document is reproduced from *India 2009*, (2010) Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India.

administer educational institutions of their choice; and (vi) right to constitutional remedies for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

By the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, adopted in 1976, Fundamental Duties of the citizens have also been enumerated. Article 51 'A' contained in Part IV A of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties. These enjoin upon a citizen among other things, to abide by the Constitution, to cherish and follow noble ideals which inspired India's struggle for freedom, to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so and to promote harmony and spirit of common brotherhood transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF PARLIAMENT

As in other parliamentary democracies, the Parliament in India has the cardinal functions of legislation, overseeing of administration, passing of the Budget, ventilation of public grievances and discussing various subjects like development plans, national policies and international relations. The distribution of powers between the Union and the States, followed in the Constitution, emphasises in many ways the general predominance of Parliament in the legislative field. Apart from a wide-range of subjects, even in normal times, the Parliament can, under certain circumstances, assume legislative power with respect to a subject falling within the sphere exclusively reserved for the States. The Parliament is also vested with powers to impeach the President and to remove the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, the Chief Election Commissioner and the Comptroller and Auditor General in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Constitution. All legislation require consent of both the Houses of Parliament. In the case of money bills, however, the will of the Lok Sabha prevails. Delegated legislation is also subject to review and control by Parliament. Besides the power to legislate, the Constitution vests in Parliament the power to initiate amendment of the Constitution.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT COMPETITION

In order to develop democratic ethos in the younger generation the Ministry conducts Youth Parliament Competition in various categories of schools and colleges/universities. The Youth Parliament Scheme was first introduced in the Schools in Delhi in 1966-67. The Kendriya Vidyalayas located in and around Delhi were incorporated into the ongoing Scheme for Delhi Schools in 1978. Subsequently, as a separate scheme of Youth Parliament for Kendriya Vidyalayas at the National Level was launched in 1988. Similarly, in 1997-98, two new Youth Parliament Schemes at the national level, one for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and the other for Universities/Colleges were launched.

During 2007-08, the 42nd Youth Parliament Competition for Delhi Schools was completed and 33 schools had participated. The 20th National Youth Parliament Competition for Kendriya Vidyalayas was held and 90 Kendriya Vidyalayas participated. The 11th National Youth Parliament Competition for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas was completed. The Ninth National Youth Parliament Competition for Universities/Colleges is in progress.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances is the nodal agency of the Government for Administrative Reforms as well as redressal of public grievances relating to the States in general and grievances pertaining to Central Government agencies in particular. The Department disseminates information on important activities of the Government relating to administrative reforms best practices and public grievance redressal through publications and documentation. The Department also undertakes activities in the field of international exchange and cooperation to promote public service reforms.

The mission of the Department is to act as a facilitator, in consultation with Central Ministries/Departments, States/UT Administrations, Organisations and Civil Society Representatives, to improve Government functioning through process re-engineering, systemic changes. Organisation and Methods, efficient Grievance handling promoting modernisation, Citizens Charters, award schemes, e-governance and best practices in government.

A Commission on Review of Administrative Laws was set up by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances on 8 May 1998 with a view to identify proposals for amendment of the existing laws, regulations and procedures having inter-sectoral impact and also for repeal of all dysfunctional laws. The Commission submitted its report on 30 September 1998. Out of the 1382 Central Laws of different categories recommended for repeal by the Commission, 415 Acts including 5 War-time Permanent Ordinances have since been repealed. The various Ministries/Departments have decided to retain 822 Acts (which include 700 Appropriation Acts and 27 Reorganisation Acts). The remaining Acts are at various stages of processing.

The Department set up a Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in 2005 under the Chairmanship of Shri Veerappa Moily to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administrative system. The Commission has been set up by the Government of India to suggest measures to achieve a proactive, responsive, accountable, sustainable and efficient administration for the country at all levels of the government.

The Commission has so far presented the following five Reports to the Government :-

- (i) Right to Information—Master Key to Good Governance (09.06.2006)
- (ii) Unlocking Human Capital—Entitlements and Governance—a Case Study (31.07.2006)
- (iii) Crisis Management—From Despair to Hope (31.10.2006)
- (iv) Ethics in Governance (12.02.2007)
- (v) Public Order—Justice for each Peace for all. (25.06.2007)

ELECTION COMMISSION

The superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, elections to Parliament and State Legislatures and elections to the offices of the President and the Vice-President of India are vested in the Election Commission of India. It is an independent constitutional authority. Since its inception in 1950 and till October 1989, the Commission functioned as a single member body consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner. On 16 October 1989, the President appointed two more

Election Commissioners on the eve of the General Election to the House of the People held in November-December 1989. However, the said two Commissioners ceased to hold office on 1 January 1990 when those two posts of Election Commissioners were abolished. Again on 1 October 1993, the President appointed two more Election Commissioners. Simultaneously, the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991 was amended to provide that the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners will enjoy equal powers and will receive equal salary, allowances and other perquisites as payable to a judge of the Supreme Court of India. The Act further provided that in case of difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and/or two other Election Commissioners, the matter will be decided by the Commission by majority. The validity of that Act (renamed in 1993 as the Election Commission) (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991 was challenged before the Supreme Court. The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court consisting of five judges, however, dismissed the petitions and upheld the provisions of the above law by a unanimous judgement on 14 July 1995.

Independence of the Election Commission and its insulation from executive interference is ensured by a specific provision under Article 324(5) of the Constitution that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court and conditions of his service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. The other Election Commissioners cannot be removed from office except on recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner. The term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners is six years from the date he/she assumes office or till the day he/she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Mass Communication

In a country like India, mass communication plays an important role in creating people's awareness about national policies and programmes by providing information and education, besides healthy entertainment. It helps people to be active partners in the nation-building endeavour. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is responsible for development and regulation of information, broadcasting and film sectors in the country. The Information Sector includes the Print Media which is regulated by the Press Council of India. In addition, the information sector includes the following media units of the Government viz. Press Information Bureau, Photo Division, Registrar of Newspapers for India, Research, Reference and Training Division, Directorate of Publications Division, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song and Drama Division. The Broadcasting sector consists of Prasar Bharti formed by an Act of 1997 by subsuming Doordarshan and All India Radio under it. In addition, the broadcasting sector has about 100 private channels and cable network all over the country. Film making is in the non-government sector. The Government presence in this sector consists of Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Development Corporation, the Central Board of Film Certification, National Film Archives of India, and Childrens Film Society. The Government has set-up two film and television institutes, one at Pune and the other at Kolkata. The Government has reviewed the Print Media Policy and opened up the News Sector for FII's, NRI's and PIO's. Earlier only FDI up to 26 per cent in the sector was permitted. In the non-News Sector also the limit has been enhanced to 100 per cent from the previous limit of 74 per cent.

A new policy of expansion of FM Radio broadcasting service through private agencies (Phase-II) was approved on 30 June 2005 and was notified on 13 July 2005.

The Government invited bids from Indian companies for 337 FM Radio channels in 91 cities out of which 280 were successfully bid. The Government of India issued Policy Guidelines for downlink of television channels on 11 November 2005, which provide that no person/entity shall downlink a channel that has not been registered with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Permission is required from the Ministry in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed under these guidelines. All programmes of satellite TV channels, transmitted/retransmitted through cable network service are required to adhere to the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed there under. To strengthen the content regulation mechanism, the Government has taken necessary steps.

In the competition section of International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2005), entries were extended to two more continents, Africa and Latin America besides Asia. Inter-governmental co-production agreements are usually umbrella agreements, under which private; quasi-government or government agencies may enter into contracts to produce films together. Such films are treated as national films in both countries. The Government of India has entered into an audio-visual co-production agreement with the Government of Italy in May 2005. India has also

entered into film co-production agreements with Great Britain and Northern Ireland in December 2005. The agreement with Britain is finalised which could pave the way for many fruitful associations between the two countries.

PRASAR BHARATI

Prasar Bharati is the public service broadcaster in the country, with All India Radio and Doordarshan as its two constituents. It came into existence on 23 November 1997, with a mandate to organise and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain people and to ensure balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television. The major objectives of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, as laid out in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, are as follows: i) Upholding the unity and integrity of the country and the values enshrined in the Constitution; ii) Promoting national integration, iii) Safeguarding citizen's rights and to be informed on all matters of public interest and presenting a fair and balanced flow of information; iv) Paying special attention to the fields of education and spread of literacy, agriculture, rural development. Health and family welfare and science and technology; v) Creating awareness about women's issues and taking special steps to protect the interests of children, the aged and other vulnerable sections of society; vi) Providing adequate coverage to the diverse cultures, sports and games and youth affairs; vii) Promoting social justice, safeguarding the rights of working classes, minorities and tribal communities; and viii) Expanding broadcasting facilities and promoting research and development in broadcast technology.

ALL INDIA RADIO

Radio Broadcasting started in India in the early 1920's. The first programme was broadcast in 1923 by the Radio club of Bombay. This was followed by setting up Broadcasting Services in 1927 with two privately-owned transmitters at Bombay and Calcutta. The Government took over the transmitters in 1930 and started operating them under the name of Indian Broadcasting Service. It was changed to All India Radio (AIR) in 1936 and it came to be known as Akashvani from 1957.

All India Radio, since Independence, has become one the largest broadcasting networks in the world. At the time of independence there were six radio stations and 18 transmitters, which covered 11% population and 2.5 % area of the country. Till December, 2007 the network comprises of 231 stations & 373 transmitters which provide radio coverage to 99.14% of the population and reaches 91.79% area of the country.

DOORDARSHAN - Television

Doordarshan, a Public Service Broadcaster, is among the largest terrestrial television network in the world. The service was started in New Delhi on 15 September 1959 to transmit educational and development programmes on an experimental basis with half-an-hour programming.

Commencement of regular television service as part of All India Radio commenced in Delhi (1965); Mumbai (1972); Kolkata (1975), Chennai (1975). Doordarshan was established on 15 September 1976. A major landmark thereafter was the introduction of colour television in 1982 coinciding with the 9th Asian Games held in New Delhi that ushered in a major revolution in broadcasting in the country. This was followed by a phase of rapid expansion of Doordarshan when, in 1984 more or less every day saw the installation of a transmitter in the country.

Doordarshan network consists of 64 Doordarshan Kendras/Production Centres, 24 Regional News Units, 126 Doordarshan Maintenance Centres, 202 High Power transmitters, 828 Low Power Transmitters, 351 Very Low Power Transmitters, 18 Transposers, 30 Channels and DTH Service and has a sanctioned strength of 21708 officers and staff of various categories.

PRESS AND PRINT MEDIA

The Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) came into existence on 1 July 1956, on the recommendation of the First Press Commission in 1953 and by amending the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. The Registrar of Newspapers for India, commonly known as the Press Registrar, is required, inter alia to submit an Annual Report to the Government by 31 December every year on the status of newspapers. The period for which the annual statements were to be furnished, was changed from the calendar to financial year in 2002. Earlier the Annual Report was compiled on financial year basis. [The total number of registered Newspapers/Periodical was 65,032 as on 31 March 2007. These were 7,131 dailies, 374 tri/bi-weeklies, 22,116 weeklies, 8,547 fortnightlies, 19,456 monthlies 4,470 quarterlies 605 annuals, and 2,333 of the other periodicity. (The figures have been updated only for the registered newspapers for the year 2006-07)].

According to the report submitted by the Press Registrar for the year 2005-06, Newspapers were registered in 123 languages and dialects. Apart from English and 22 other principal languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, newspapers were registered in 100 other languages and dialects mostly Indian but also in a few foreign languages too. Orissa had the distinction of publishing newspapers in 18 out of 23 principle languages. Maharashtra came next with publication in 17 languages followed by Delhi with publications in 16 principle languages.

Of the 62,483 newspapers registered as on 31 March 2006, only 8,512 submitted Annual Statements during 2005-06. The total circulation of these 8,512 newspapers was 18,07,38,611. The largest number of newspapers and periodicals registered in any Indian language is in Hindi (24,927). The second largest number of newspapers and periodicals registered in any language is in English (9,064). The state with the largest number of registered newspapers is Uttar Pradesh (9,885). The state with the second largest number of registered newspapers is Delhi (8,545).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's largest news agency, Press Trust of India (PTI) is a non-profit sharing cooperative owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers. Founded on 27 August 1947, PTI began functioning from 1 February 1949.

The PTI offers its news services in English and Hindi languages. *Bhasha* is the Hindi language news service of the agency. PTI subscribers include 500 newspapers in India and scores abroad. All major TV/radio channels in India and several abroad, including BBC in London, receive PTI service.

The PTI now has its own satellite delivery system through a transponder on an INSAT satellite for reaching its services directly to subscribers anywhere in the country. Increasingly more and more subscribers are opting for satellite reception.

Photo service is delivered by satellite as well as accessed by dial-up. PTI has also now begun satellite transmission by Ku band which offers subscribers the option of receiving news through a cheaper and small size satellite receiver

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

United News of India (UNI) was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 on 19 December 1959 and started functioning effective 21 March 1961. In the past four decades, UNI has grown into a major news organisation in India and, with its vibrant presence, provided the much-needed spirit of competition in the vital areas of news gathering and dissemination.

UNI's innovative spirit was evident when it became the first news agency in India to launch a full-fledged Hindi wire service 'UNIVARTA' in 1982 and a Photo Service and a Graphics Service in the same decade. In the early 90s, it launched the first-ever wire service in URDU. UNI today has about 719 subscribers. It also has 71 offices in India and an employee strength of more than 975 persons, including 391 journalists. Apart from its own correspondents in all major cities of the country, it also has about 305 stringers who report from all the important towns. This countrywide network has enabled UNI to provide coverage of events from all the regions of the country.

Further, UNI has Correspondents in Washington, New York, London, Moscow, Dubai, Islamabad, Kathmandu, Colombo, Dhaka, Singapore, Toronto (Canada), Sydney (Australia), Bangkok (Thailand) and Kabul (Afghanistan).

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Press Council is a statutory quasi-judicial authority mandated by the Parliament to preserve the freedom of the press and maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India. It is an autonomous body with equal quasi-judicial authority over the authorities and the press persons. For the discharge of the above objects, the Council comprises of a Chairman and 28 members. While the Chairman handed convention been a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, of the 28 members, 20 represent various segments of the Press and eight, overseeing the readers' interests are representatives of the two Houses of Parliament and premier literary and legal bodies of the country i.e. University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Academy. The council has its own funds for performance of its functions under Act that comprises of the fee collected by it from newspapers and other receipts and grants from the Central Government. The Press Council of India has been reconstituted ____ to term w.e.f. January 7, 2008. The Council is presently chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice GN Ray.

The Council discharges its functions primarily through adjudications on complaint cases received by it either against the Press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the Press for interference with its freedom. Where the Council is satisfied, after inquiry, that a newspaper or a news agency has offended against the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, the Council may warn, admonish or censure them or disapprove of their

conduct. The Council is also empowered to make such observations as it may think fit in respect of the conduct of any authority, including Government, for interfering with the freedom of the press. The decisions of the Council are final and cannot be questioned in any court of law.

Communications

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Telecommunication services were introduced in India soon after the invention of telegraphy and telephone. The first Telegraph line between Kolkata and Diamond Harbour was opened for traffic in 1851. By March 1884, telegraph messages could be sent from Agra to Kolkata. By 1900, telegraph and telephone had started serving Indian Railways. As in the case of telegraph, telephone service was also introduced in Kolkata in 1881-82, barely six years after the invention of telephone. The first automatic exchange was commissioned at Shimla in 1913-14 with a capacity of 700 lines.

The Telecommunication services in India have improved significantly since independence. With the opening of Telecom sector to private investment and establishment of an independent regulator, the matter of separation of service provision functions of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and providing a level playing field to various service providers including the Government service Provider, has been achieved. On 1 October 2000 a new public Sector Undertaking, viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), has been formed to take over all the service providing functions of the erstwhile Department of Telecommunication Services (DTS).

The telecommunication services have improved significantly since independence with the sector witnessing a series of reform measures that included, announcement of National Telecom Policy in 1994 that defined certain important objectives, including availability of telephone on demand, provision of world class services at reasonable prices, ensuring India's emergence as major manufacturing / export base of telecom equipment and universal availability of basic telecom services to all villages. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRA), the independent regulator was established in 1997 and New Telecom Policy was announced in 1999, which further laid stress on providing an enabling framework for the development of this sector and to facilitate India's vision of becoming an IT superpower and develop a world class telecom infrastructure in the country.

Since then, Indian telecom sector has come a long way in achieving its dream of providing affordable and effective communication facilities to its citizens. As a result common man today has access to this most needed facility. Larger efforts are continuously being made to provide universal service to all uncovered areas including rural areas. The other thrust areas include, building a modern and efficient telecommunications infrastructure, transforming telecommunications sector to a greater competitive environment with equal opportunities and level playing field for all players, strengthening research and development efforts in the country, achieving efficiency and transparency in spectrum management and enabling Indian telecom companies to become truly global players.

The reform measures coupled with the proactive policies of the Department of telecommunications have resulted in an unprecedented growth of the telecom sector. Today, the Indian telecommunications network with over 300 million connections is third largest in the world and the second largest among the emerging economies of Asia. India has emerged as a major base for the telecom industry worldwide and it is the

endeavor of the Government to facilities further growth of this vital industry as it is not just the growth of a sector but it has 'multiplier effect' on the entire economy.

The structure and composition of telecom growth has undergone a substantial change in terms of mobile vs. fixed phones and public-private participation. The growth of wireless services has been phenomenal, with wireless subscribers growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 87.7 per cent per annum since 2003. Today, the wireless subscribers are not only much more than the wireline subscribers in the country, but also increasing at a much faster pace. The share of wireless phones has increased from 24.3 per cent in March 2003 to 86.88 per cent in March 2008.

Improved affordability of wireless phone has made universal access objective more feasible. The liberalization efforts of the government are evident in the growing share of private sector in total telephone connections, which has increased to 73.5 percent in March 2008 from a mere 5% in 1999. As on 31 March 2008, the network comprises of 300.49 million telephone connections. There are over 261.08 million Wireless phone subscribers in the country and the Wireless phone customer base is growing at the rate of over eight million per month.

Promotion of rural telephony and accessibility of telephones to remote areas is an important thrust area of the department. It is well recognized that a well spread out provision of telecom services in rural areas enhances the ability of people to participate in the market economy, which, in turn, improves their productivity and contributes to their earnings.

As on March 2008, there are 765 lakh phones in rural areas with a teledensity of 9.46% and the strategy for network expansion in rural areas mainly involves provision of phones in the viable areas through market mechanisms and through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOD) in the nonviable areas. While Village Public Telephone (VPTs) and Rural Community Phones (RCPs) will enable public access, a scheme of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) has been launched under USOF to create infrastructure in rural and remote areas.

Recognizing the potential of Broadband service in the growth of GDP and creation of an enabling environment for promoting knowledge based society, the Broadband policy announced in October 2004 has a vision of covering 20 million broadband subscribers by the end of 2010. It has been proposed in the Eleventh Plan targets to provide the broadband for all secondary and higher secondary schools, all Public Health Care Centers and Gram Panchayats. The year 2007 was christened as the 'Year of Broadband' for popularising broadband services in villages. As on March 31, 2008 there are 3.81 million broadband subscribers, which is a substantial increase from 0.18 million as on March 31, 2005.

The government is working steadily towards addressing the issue of releasing additional spectrum from government use for the use of commercial telecom operators so that the growth of this dynamic sector is not constrained by the shortage of this vital resource. The government also recognizes the need to take a forward-looking approach, based on an appreciation of changing technologies and to accelerate structural changes in this sector in line with trends in other countries to ensure that the telecommunication services

are not only made available on the scale needed to sustain rapid growth in the economy as a whole but also that the quality and cost of these services come up to the requirements of a modernizing economy.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN THE TELECOM SECTOR

In early 1997, the telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to regulate the telecommunications services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The establishment of the regulator was considered necessary in the context of liberalization and private sector participation in the telecom sector and to provide a level playing field for all operators.

By amendments made in early 2000 to the TRAI Act, the entire telecom regulatory framework, and the disputes settlement mechanism were strengthened. Besides bringing about clarity in the role and functions of the Regulator (TRAI), certain additional functions were also entrusted to it. A separate disputes settlement body known as the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal was also constituted for expeditious settlement of disputes. Vide a notification dated 9 January 2004 of the Government of India, Broadcasting and Cable Services also have been brought within the definition of “Telecommunication Services”

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND

The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 01.04.2002. As per the Rules, the following services shall be supported by the Fund, namely -

Stream-I : Provision of Public telecom and Information Services

Stream-II - Provision of household telephones in rural and remote areas as may be determined by the Central Government from time to time

Stream-III: Creation of infrastructure for provision of Mobile Services in rural and remote areas:

Stream-IV: Provision of Broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner A percentage of the Capital Recovery for the infrastructure for broadband connectivity shall be taken into account to determine the Net Cost.

Stream-V : Creation of general infrastructure in rural and remote areas for development of telecommunication facilities

Stream-VI: Induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas

BASIC TELEPHONE SERVICE, CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE

(CMTS) AND UNIFIED ACCESS SERVICES (UAS)

State owned Public Sector Undertakings, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are incumbent operators for Basic Telephone Services. MTNL provides Basis Telephone Services in two Metros, namely, Delhi and Mumbai, BSNL provides basic Telephone Services in rest of India. 78 CMTS licenses, with a maximum of four licenses in a service area, were granted between 1996 and 2001 for provision of mobile services in different service areas. The country is divided into 22 service areas for the purpose of UAS Licensing.

CELLULAR SERVICES

The country is divided into 19 (Nineteen) Telecom Circles Service areas and 4 (Four) Metro Service areas for the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) as well as Unified Access Services (UAS). The Chennai Metro and Tamil Nadu telecom Circle Service Areas have been merged for the new licences w.e.f. 15th September 2005. There are 5-8 access service providers in each service area. At present there are over 185.13 million (as on 30.06.2007) cellular subscribers and are growing at the rate of six to eight million per month. Presently, there are 60 CMTS licences. The Licence fee, which is in the form of revenue share, is 6 per cent/8 per cent/10

INTERNET

As on 31st August 2008 there are 355 Licenses for Provision of internet Services. Based on reports received from Internet Service Providers, there are approx. 11.05 million Internet subscribers in India as on March 2008.

VERY SMALL APERTURE TERMINALS (VSATS)

In total 33 companies / organizations have been issued licenses for setting up and operating captive VSAT network via INSAT Satellite system for their Closed User Group (CUG) Communication. In addition, 11 commercial VSAT licensees are operating commercial VSAT service who are permitted to offer VSATs and 284 Earth stations are operational in India. FDI increased from 49% to 74%

Provision of additional rural community phones in areas after achieving the target of one Village Public Telephone in every revenue village.

TELECOM SECTOR

The predominant role of the Telecom sector in the rapid social and economic development has been recognised the world-over. The telecom sector in India has undergone a series of changes and institutional reforms since 1991. The new Telecom Policy, 1999 has laid down the basic framework for the future development and growth of the Telecom sector in the country. Following this approach, the major objectives envisaged in the Tenth Five Year plan include: (i) Affordable and effective communication facilities to all citizens, (ii) Provision of universal service to all uncovered areas including rural areas, (iii) Building a modern and efficient telecommunication infrastructure to meet the convergence of Telecom, IT and Media, (iv) Transformation of the telecommunication sector to a greater competitive environment providing equal opportunities and level playing field for all players, (v) Strengthening Research and Development efforts in the country, (vi) Achieving efficiency and transparency in the spectrum management, (vii) Protecting the defence and security interests of the country, (viii) Enabling Indian telecom companies to become truly global players. Towards fulfillment of these objectives, India's more than 125 million telephone network is one of the largest networks in the world, which continues to grow at a blistering pace. The higher growth rate has continued during the first three quarters of the year 2005-06 and showed a growth rate of 35 per cent between December 2004 and December 2005. The total number of phones has reached 125.8 million as on 31 December 2005. The performance during the year has been so impressive that the average monthly addition crossed to 3 million lines. During 2005-06, 274.15 lakh new connections (50.90 lakh by BSNL & MTNL and 223.25 lakh by private sector were provided).

The private sector has continued its dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit to play a significant role in the growth of telecom sector. The share of private sector in the total telephones has increased from 47 per cent as on 31 March 2005 to 55 per cent as on 31 December 2005. Of the 274.15 lakh additional phones provided during 2005-06 the major share, i.e., 223.25 lakh, amounting to more than 81 per cent was provided by the private sector. The preference of subscribers in the urban areas is for wireless telephony and the trend continues. This has now been transformed into a mass consumption service.

Efforts are on to develop rural telephony. Under the Bharat Nirman, all the 66,822 uncovered villages are to be covered by November 2007. Against this target 25,870 uncovered villages have already been covered upto May 2006. ‘‘One India Tariff’’ is another important feature introduced from 1 March 2006 under which the customers of BSNL and MTNL can call from one end of India to another at the cost of Rs. 1 per minute, any time of the day to any phone.

Youth Policies

There is separate ministry for Youth affairs and sports affairs in India. A National Commission for Youth has also been set up to recommend to the Government measures to tackle effectively the problems faced by the youth of India, with particular focus on unemployment. In adherence to the recommendation, two new schemes (i) National Programme for Adolescent and Youth Development (NPYAD) (restructured scheme) and (ii) Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan have been introduced in the Ministry during the 11th Plan.

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY, 2003

The first National Youth Policy was formulated and laid in Parliament in 1988. A need was felt to revise the existing National Youth Policy, as a result of rapid socioeconomic transformation in the country. The new National Youth Policy, 2003 formulated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is designed to galvanise the youth to rise up to the new challenges, keeping in view the global scenario, and aims at motivating them to be active partners in national development. The age group of the Youth, as per the National Youth Policy, 2003, is 13 to 35 years. The New Policy recognises four thrust areas viz., (i) Youth Empowerment; (ii) Gender Justice; (iii) Inter-Sectoral Approach; and (iv) Information and Research Network. The Policy includes eight key sectors for the development of youth. The Policy also identifies five priority groups of young people. The Policy provides implementation mechanism through which various development programmes and activities will be undertaken for the youth with active involvement of the State governments and Union Ministries and Departments.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

The scheme titled National Programme for Youth Adolescent Development (NPYAD) has been formulated by merger of four 100% central sector grants-in-aid schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports during 10th Plan namely, Promotion of Youth Activities & training, Promotion of National integration, Promotion of Adventure and Development and Empowerment of Adolescents. The merger was done with a view to reduce multiplicity of schemes with similar objectives, ensuring uniformity in funding pattern and implementation mechanism, avoiding delays in availability of funds to the field level and institutionalising participation of State Governments in project formulation and its implementation. While there will be synergy and convergence in operational mechanism and programme delivery, there will be clear distinction with regards the financial parameters of each of the components under the scheme.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

Short term objectives:-

- Provide opportunity for holistic development of youth including adolescents for realisation of their fullest potential;

- Develop leadership qualities and personality development of youth and to channelize their energy towards socio-economic development and growth of the nation;
- Promote national integration, strengthen secular and eclectic outlook through creative expressions by youth;
- Foster the spirit of adventure, risk taking, teamwork, the capacity of ready and vital response to challenging situations and of endurance among youth;
- Acknowledge adolescents as a distinct subgroup among youth and address their distinct needs and at the same time provide positive stimulation and congenial environment for their all-round development; and
- To encourage research and publication and to promote technical resource support including development of information and database on issues concerning youth and adolescents.

Long - term objectives

- Engage and canalize the energy of youth in a positive manner for nation building;
- Develop amongst youth a sense of pride in nationally accepted values like democracy, socialism, and secularism;
- Promote activities and programmes, which foster social harmony and national unity among youth;
- Promote spirit of national integration, unity in diversity, pride in Indianness among the youth of different parts of the country and to induce a sense of social harmony amongst the youth;
- To motivate the youth to act as local point for dissemination of knowledge in the rural area and involve them in nation building process;
- To stimulate action for development and empowerment of adolescents, particularly from the economically and socially neglected/backward sections of society;
- To build and develop an environment which recognises the specific needs and promise of the adolescents in the country and provides for adolescent friendly services.

SCHEME BENEFICIARIES

Definition of youth and adolescent:- The Youth and Adolescents for the purpose of the scheme would be as defined in the extant National Youth Policy. In other words, the expression 'youth' would cover persons belonging to the age group of 13 to 35 years and 'adolescent' would cover persons in the age group of 10-19 years under the scheme.

PROGRAMME AREA AND COMPONENTS

Programme Component:- The umbrella scheme will comprise of the following broad programme area and their components:-

Name of the Programme Area Programme Component

- 1) Youth Leadership and Personality Development
 - a) Youth Leadership and Personality Development Training
- 2) Promotion of National Integration
 - a) National Integration Camp
 - b) Inter-State Youth Exchange Programme
 - c) Multi-Cultural Activities
 - d) National Youth Festival
 - e) State Youth Festival
 - f) National Youth Awards
- 3) Promotion of Adventure
 - a) Promotion of adventure of basic and intermediate level in India.
 - b) Promotion of adventure of advance level including expeditions in India
 - c) Grants to Recognised Institutions.
 - d) Tenzing Norgey National Adventure Awards
- 4) Development and Empowerment
 - a) Life Skills Education of Adolescents
 - b) Counselling
 - c) Career Guidance
 - d) Residential Camps
- 5) Technical and Resource Development
 - a) Environment Building
 - b) Research & Studies on youth issues
 - c) Documentation & Publication
 - d) Seminars, Conferences, Exhibitions and Workshops on youth or adolescent issues, national integration and adventure.

Malaysia

Joanne Lim
University of Nottingham, Malaysia campus

Population (2011):

Total population: 28,728,607 (July 2011 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 29.6% (male 4,374,495/female 4,132,009)

15-64 years: 65.4% (male 9,539,972/female 9,253,574)

65 years and over: 5% (male 672,581/female 755,976) (2011 est.)

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/my.html#top>

Youth population (2009):

0-14 years: 33 per cent;

15-24 years: 20 per cent;

60 years and over: 4 per cent (2000 est.)

Source: http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/youth/youth_malaysia.pdf

Malaysia: Estimated Total Population according to Age and Ethnicity, 2010

	Total	Malays	Other Bumiputera	Chinese	Indian	Others	Non-Malaysian citizens
Total	28,908,795	14,749,378	3,197,993	6,520,559	1,969,343	347,692	2,123,830
0-4	3,291,816	1,875,496	377,104	533,343	186,170	36,197	283,506
5-9	3,049,120	1,684,274	346,998	533,096	182,130	37,028	265,594
10-14	2,824,107	1,571,678	337,565	545,232	184,772	46,786	138,074
15-19	2,646,135	1,489,105	334,328	512,152	170,895	41,643	98,012
20-24	2,553,047	1,404,789	312,720	517,503	171,946	35,465	110,624
25-29	2,378,080	1,249,339	282,628	500,162	164,033	29,185	152,733
30-34	2,111,549	980,281	230,979	466,935	151,238	22,033	260,083
35-39	1,925,924	845,936	200,856	452,345	142,359	19,267	265,161
40-44	1,825,245	825,516	189,628	457,633	136,702	19,402	196,364

Source: (http://www.malaysiaeconomy.net/english/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=190:estimated-population-of-malaysia-2010&catid=38:population&Itemid=53)

Youth Population - between the age group 15 to 24 are lesser about 4.37 million (2000)
Youth population - between the age group 15 to 34 in Malaysia is approximately 9.75 million and they are around 42.5% of the total population.

Source: http://www.mtuc.org.my/young_workers.htm

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (2010, at current market price):

GDP at current prices (RM million)	765,965
GDP at constant prices (RM million)	559,554
GDP Growth (%)	7.20

Source:

http://www.statistics.gov.my/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=472&Itemid=156&lang=en

GDP Growth Rate (2010):

Annual Growth: - 7.20%

Source: [ibid](#)

Literacy rate (2009, percentage of people over 15 who can read and write):

92%. (95%) Males, (90%) Females

Source: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/literacy.htm>

Literacy Rate Youth (2009, 15-24 years old)

99%. (98% Males, (99%) Females

Source: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/literacy.htm>

Internet penetration rate (2010):

64.6%

16,902,600 Internet users as of June, 2009,

Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/asia/my.htm>

Facebook Penetration rate (2011)

9,998,440 Facebook users on March 31/11, 34.8% penetration

Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/asia/my.htm>

Computer ownership (2009):

87%

Source: <http://my.nielsen.com/news/20090107.shtml>

Mobile phone penetration rate (2010):

121%

Source: http://www.skmm.gov.my/link_file/facts_figures/stats/pdf/Q4_2010_pr.pdf

Computer literacy:

NA

Policies regarding political engagement:

Government Regulations and Statutes:

The Constitution is divided into 15 Parts and 13 Schedules. There are 230 articles in the 15 parts, including those that have been repealed.

Part I - The States, Religion and Law of the Federation

Part II - Fundamental Liberties

Article 5 - Right to Life and Liberty

Article 9 - Prohibition of Banishment and Freedom of Movement

Article 10 - Freedom of Speech, Assembly and Association

Article 71 - State Sovereignty and State Constitutions

Part XI - Special Powers Against Subversion, Organized Violence, and Acts and Crimes Prejudicial to the Public and Emergency Powers

Article 150 - Emergency Powers

Article 151 - Restrictions on preventive detention

Sources: <http://www.jac.gov.my/jac/images/stories/akta/federalconstitution.pdf>

Continued – Important Acts Regarding Political Engagement

Act 575 [Anti-Corruption Act 1997](#)

Act 588 [Communications & Multimedia Act 1998](#)

Act 286 [Defamation Act 1957](#)

Act 82 [Internal Security Act 1960](#)

Act 550 [National Education Act 1996](#)

Act 88 [Official Secrets Act 1972](#)

Act 301 [Printing Presses & Publications Act 1984](#)

Act 15 [Sedition Act 1948](#)

Act 30 [Universities & University Colleges Act 1971](#)

Act 339 [National Trust Fund Act 1988](#)

Source: http://www.cpps.org.my/sub_page.aspx?catID=424&ddlID=378

Policies regarding Mass Media and New Media

1. Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission Act (1998) and the Communications and Multimedia Act (1998).

Source:

http://www.skmm.gov.my/link_file/facts_figures/codes_gl/guidelines/pdf/ContentCode.pdf

a) The Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 provides for the Content Forum to prepare and draw up a Content Code after appropriate consultations and to enforce the Code containing governing standards and practices in the communications and multimedia industry.

b) The Content Code which the Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia has adopted for the purpose of the statutory duty sets out the guidelines and procedures for good practice and standards of content disseminated to audiences by service providers in the communications and multimedia industry in Malaysia.

c) The Content Code demonstrates a commitment toward self-regulation by the industry in compliance with the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (Act 588). It seeks to identify what is regarded as offensive and objectionable while spelling out the obligations of content providers within the context of social values in this country.

d) In creating and offering news, reports, entertainment and advertisements, content providers will bear in mind the need for a balance between the desire of viewers, listeners and users to have a wide range of Content options and access to information on the one hand and the necessity to preserve law, order and morality on the other.

2.3 The principle of ensuring that Content shall not be indecent, obscene, false, menacing or offensive shall be observed.

2.4 There shall be no discriminatory material or comment, which is based on matters of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, marital status, or physical or mental handicap.

According to the Prime Minister, Internet content in the national language will help minimize the digital divide between rural and urban folk. Lack of English is a deterrent to the use of the Internet and ICT among the rural folks. The persistent issue of digital divide in Malaysia is expected to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner with the National Strategic Framework for Bridging the Digital. The Framework aims to provide strategies through which the benefits of information and communications technology (ICT) can be experienced by all levels and members of the society.

This section provides an insight into how classification is carried out, the codes of practice and guidelines governing different types of media as well as licensing conditions and procedures.

Malaysian Advertising Code of Ethics for Television and Radio

This code controls the content of commercials and advertisements. The code restricts programs or advertisements that promote an excessively materialistic lifestyle. Using sex to sell products is restricted. In addition, scenes involving models undressing are not allowed. Women have a strict dress code: they must be covered from the neckline to below the knees. Swimming trunks for men and women can only be shown in scenes involving sporting or athletic events. All scenes or shots must be filmed in Malaysia, and only 20 percent of foreign footage is allowed and then only after it is approved by the minister. Moreover, all musicals and songs must be produced in Malaysia.

Unacceptable products, services, and scenes include alcoholic beverages. Blue denims are restricted; however, certain jeans made of other materials can be advertised. Dramatizations that show the applications of products to certain parts of the body, such as the armpits, is restricted. Clothes with imported words or symbols are restricted because they may convey undesired messages. Other restrictions include scenes which suggest intimacy, disco scenes, feminine napkins, and kissing between adults.

Details: [Malaysia Press, Media, TV, Radio, Newspapers - television, circulation, stations, papers, number, print, freedom](http://www.pressreference.com/Ky-Ma/Malaysia.html#ixzz1TKE684xd) <http://www.pressreference.com/Ky-Ma/Malaysia.html#ixzz1TKE684xd>

Arts Entertainment - Act 493: ENTERTAINMENT (FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR) ACT 1992

Plays, operas, pantomimes, variety acts, performances of music, singing, dancing, gymnastics, martial art demonstrations, acrobatics and legerdemain, beauty contests, tableaux, demonstrations, displays and parades, sport competitions, fairs, firework displays, are all classified as entertainment, and needs license one way or another. No person under 21 may buy liquor.

Detail: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2010/Act%20493.pdf>

Films and Videos - Act 620: FILM CENSORSHIP ACT 2002

The National Film Development Committee was established to “Promote, maintain, and facilitate film production development in Malaysia.” Its vision is to uphold the National Cultural Heritage through film. The Film Censorship Act does allow obscene or lewd films. All films must go through its censorship board to get its appropriate rating and/or the mark of approval.

Details: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/37543201/Act-620-Film-Censorship-Act-2002> & <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2013/Act%20620.pdf>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship_in_Malaysia

Publications and Audio Materials

All printing presses require a license, and audio materials conform to the Communications and Multimedia Act. The Home Affairs Minister is given "absolute discretion" to grant, revoke or suspend permits "to any person to print and publish a newspaper in Malaysia" or "to any proprietor of any newspaper in Singapore allowing such newspaper to be imported, sold, circulated or distributed in Malaysia." Permits are

normally granted for the period of one year, and cannot be transferred without the permission of the Minister. Should one print, import, publish sell, circulate or distribute — or even offer to do any of those things — a newspaper without a permit from the Minister, it will be deemed an offense punishable by up to three years in jail and/or a fine of up to RM20,000.^[3]

Detail:

<http://www.agc.gov.my/agc/oth/Akta/Vol.%207/Act%20301.pdf>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Printing_Presses_and_Publications_Act

TV

The Malaysian Advertising Code of Ethics for Tv and Radio applies for TV. Television Malaysia, founded in 1963, controls programming from its main office in Kuala Lumpur. TV 3 (Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Bhd) is Malaysia's first private television station that began broadcasting in 1984. Meast Broadcast Network systems began operating when Malaysia's first satellite was launched in January 1996. Malaysia launched a second satellite in October of that year. Mega TV, which started broadcasting in 1995, has five foreign channels, and the government owns 40 percent of Mega TV. The commercial station, MetroVison began broadcasting in July 1995. It is 44 percent owned by Sendandang Sesuria Sbn Bhd and 56 percent owned by Metropolitan Media Sbn Bhd. In addition, as of 1996, when the government ended the ban on private satellite dish ownership, Malaysians can own dishes.

Details: [Malaysia Press, Media, TV, Radio, Newspapers - television, circulation, stations, papers, number, print, freedom](http://www.pressreference.com/Ky-Ma/Malaysia.html#ixzz1TKEL2ruZ) <http://www.pressreference.com/Ky-Ma/Malaysia.html#ixzz1TKEL2ruZ>

Audiotext

Audiotext falls under the Content Code of the Communications and Multimedia Act, under the “Audiotext Hosting Service Guidelines”.

Internet

Malaysian news websites and blogs are well known for providing alternate views to mainstream news coverage. The growth of the Internet in Malaysia has created problems for the Malaysian government. One government project begun by Mahathir in the late 1990s was Cyberjaya, the multi-media Super Corridor designed to attract high tech industry and serve as a community totally wired to the Internet similar to the Silicone Valley in California. It covers the same area as Singapore and is located on the tip of Peninsular Malaysia. In keeping with his promise Mahathir has pledged not to censor the Internet, and to promote Cyberjaya, he has been forced to have a hands-off policy regarding the Internet. In 1998, the Malaysian government allowed Malaysia's first commercial non-government controlled online newspaper, *MalaysiaKini* to begin operations.

Details: [Malaysia Press, Media, TV, Radio, Newspapers - television, circulation, stations, papers, number, print, freedom](http://www.pressreference.com/Ky-Ma/Malaysia.html#ixzz1TKEmsmYY) <http://www.pressreference.com/Ky-Ma/Malaysia.html#ixzz1TKEmsmYY>

Radio

The government has strict codes that the radio and television media must follow. The May 2002 version of the Malaysian Advertising Code of Ethics for Television and Radio protects the television industry as well as the government's social policies. Radio Malaysia broadcasts over six networks in various languages and dialects. Besides Radio Malaysia, Suara Islam (Voice of Islam) and Suara Malaysia (Voice of Malaysia) broadcast regularly in Peninsular Malaysia. Radio Television Malaysia broadcasts in Sabah and Sarawak. There is also Rediffusion Cable Network Sdn Bhd and Time Highway Radio, both of which have offices in Kuala Lumpur and primarily serve East Malaysia.

Video Games

There is no definitive video game guide; however Acts which affect it are the Content Code as well as the Copyright Act.

1. Laws of Malaysia List in relation to Media:

1. [Bernama Act 1967 \(Act 449\)—\(Revised 1990\) - CLICK](#)
2. Broadcasting Act 1988 (Act 338) (Repealed by Act 588)
3. Cinematograph Film-Hire Duty Act 1965 (Act 434)—(Revised 1990) (repealed by Act 556)
4. Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (Act 588)
5. Computer Crimes Act 1997 (Act 563)
6. Copyright Act 1987 (Act 332)
7. Deposit of Library Material Act 1986 (Act 331)
8. Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Act 1959 (Act 213)—(Revised 1978)
9. Elections Act 1958 (Act 19)—(Revised 1970)
10. Entertainments Duty Act 1953 (Act 103)—(Revised 1973)
11. Entertainment (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) Act 1992 (Act 493)
12. Films (Censorship) Act 1952 (Act 35)—(Revised 1971)
13. Film Censorship Act 2002 (Act 620)
14. Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia Act 2002 (Act 617)
15. Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission Act 1998 (Act 589)
16. National Art Gallery Act 1959 (Act 516)—(Revised 1994)
17. Optical Disc Act 2000 (Act 606)
18. Patents Act 1983 (Act 291)
19. Perbadanan Kemajuan Filem Nasional Malaysia Act 1981 (Act 244)
20. Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 (Act 301)
21. Sedition Act 1948 (Act 15)—(Revised 1969)
22. Telecommunication Services (Successor Company) Act 1985 (Act 322)
23. Telecommunications Act 1950 (Act 20)—(Revised 1970) (Repealed by Act 588)
24. Digital Signature Act 1997 http://www.msc.com.my/cyberlaws/act_digital.asp
25. Public Entertainment (Amendment) Enactment 1993
26. Public Entertainments Ordinance 1958
- 27.

Source: http://www.mylawyer.com.my/pdf/List_of_Malaysia_Law.pdf

Policies regarding New Media:

Source: http://www.innovation.cc/scholarly-style/salman_internet_malaysian3final5.pdf

Information Economy Policies & Frameworks

-The New Media as an Engine for Development in Malaysia

Apart from the role that is being played by the traditional media, ICT is now the focus to lead Malaysia in the new era of globalization and knowledge. To achieve the status of a regional Information Technology (IT) hub, the government has put in place the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) covering an area of 15 kilometres wide and 50 kilometres long covering Kuala Lumpur City Center (KLCC) in the north and the new KL International Airport (KLIA) in the south. Located within the Corridor are two cities known as Putrajaya and Cyberjaya. Putrajaya, the new headquarters of the Malaysian Government, is known as an “intelligent city” because it has all the latest facilities for the Information Age, and it uses information technology to help modernize the system of government and administration, (known as “electronic government”). Cyberjaya is the base for some of the world’s largest and most innovative multimedia companies, which are expected to set up their manufacturing or creative centres, use the most sophisticated multimedia technology to manufacture their products and provide services for the global market. It is also planned to accommodate universities, smart homes, smart schools and several research and development (R&D) centres. The smart concept as used by Malaysian government means the use of ICT in daily routine.

Under the MSC seven pilot applications, known as “Flagship Applications” have been identified. These seven pilot applications are Electronic Government, Multi-purpose Card, Smart Schools, Telemedicine, Research and Development (R&D) Cluster, Worldwide Manufacturing Webs and Borderless Marketing. The Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) intends to scale up its technopreneur development flagship (TDF) under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) to accelerate the growth of local technopreneurs and create a more sustainable information and communications technology (ICT) industry in Malaysia. The final aim of this move is to groom MSC status outfits, which can eventually develop into MSC global company.

Legislation for Information Economy

- The New Media Policy in the CMC Act (1998)

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission is the regulator for the converging communications and multimedia industry. At the time it was created its key role was the regulation of the communications and multimedia industry based on the powers provided for in the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission Act (1998) and the Communications and Multimedia Act (1998). Pursuant to these Acts the role of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission is to implement and promote the Government's national policy objectives for the communications and multimedia sector. The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission is also charged with overseeing the new regulatory framework for the converging industries of telecommunications, broadcasting and on-line activities.

Economic regulation, which includes the promotion of competition and prohibition of anti-competitive conduct, as well as the development and enforcement of access codes and standards. It also includes licensing, enforcement of license conditions for network and application providers and ensuring compliance to rules and performance/service quality.

Technical regulation, includes efficient frequency spectrum assignment, the development and enforcement of technical codes and standards, and the administration of numbering and electronic addressing.

Consumer protection, which emphasises the empowerment of consumers while at the same time ensures adequate protection measures in areas such as dispute resolution, affordability of services and service availability.

Social regulation which includes the twin areas of content development as well as content regulation; the latter includes the prohibition of offensive content as well as public education on content-related issues.

On 1 November 2001, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission also took over regulation of the Postal Industry and was appointed the Certifying Agency pursuant to the Digital Signature Act (1997).

The Communications, Content and Infrastructure NKEA

The Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) is a comprehensive effort that will transform Malaysia into a high-income nation by 2020. The programme provides strong focus on a few key growth engines: the 12 National Key Economic Areas ([NKEAs](#)). These NKEAs are expected to make substantial contributions to Malaysia's economic performance, and they will receive prioritised public investment and policy support. The ETP will be led by the private sector; the Government will primarily play the role of a facilitator. Most of the funding will come from the private sector (92 percent) with public sector investment being used as a catalyst to spark private sector participation.

The Communications Content and Infrastructure (CCI) sector spans a wide ecosystem, from content generation to networks, services and devices. In 2009, the sector contributed RM22 billion of GNI from telecommunications, TV and broadcasting as well as post and courier.

For Malaysia to transition from a middle-income to high-income economy the continued development of the communications content and infrastructure sector is fundamental. The sector should now build on the infrastructure investments of the past and shift to providing applications and content in order to enable the knowledge-based society.

Regulatory Policies and Frameworks

1	Nurturing Malaysia's creative content	3,081.9	10,326
2	Deploying 1Malaysia payments	1,005.9	1,478

3	Connecting 1Malaysia	1,783.1	2,056
4	Establishing e-Learning for students and workers	1,487.3	800
5	Launching e-Healthcare	1,402.5	250
6	Deepening e-Government	1,100.1	1,000
7	Ensuring broadband for all	2,160.5	7,155
8	Extending reach	2,688.5	3,135
9	Offering a smart network	1,692.4	4,186
10	Extending the regional network		

Other Projects:

The National Broadband Implementation Strategy or better known as National Broadband Initiative (NBI) puts in place a national strategy that will bring broadband to the whole nation. In 2007 the Government of Malaysia has set its target for broadband whereby the country is to achieve 50% household broadband penetration by the end of 2010.

The Government through SKMM has set up Community Broadband Centers (CBC) to provide collective community Internet access to underserved areas identified under the Universal Service Provision (USP) programme. Each CBC set up is equipped with IT equipments and personal computers connected to internet broadband access, in order to allow rural communities to enjoy the benefits of the internet as enjoyed by those living in urban areas. In order for rural communities to improve their social and economic status and benefit from the IT equipment and internet connectivity provided software and training are being provided at each CBC. Through the setting up of CBCs it is hoped that this will contribute towards achieving success in national initiatives to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural communities, in line with the objectives outlined in the National Broadband Implementation Strategy and MyICMS 886 Technology Roadmap.

The NCDG is a fund established by the Commission to render assistance in the form of grants towards achieving the national aspiration on the development of local content for a networked environment. To facilitate and encourage Malaysians involvement in the creation, production and distribution of highly creative, original and marketable networked content for domestic and international markets. The focus areas for development are mobile content and TV content.

Codes of Practice and Guidelines

Codes of Practice are provided by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Content Code.

Source: http://www.skmm.gov.my/index.php?c=public&v=art_view&art_id=32

In the code, guidelines on audiotext hosting services, limited content, broadcasting and online activities are set out.

Guidelines cover:

Indecent Content
Obscene Content
Violence
Menacing Content
Bad Language
False Content
Children's Content
Family Values
Persons with Special Needs
Indirect Advertising and Product Placements
Identifying Advertisers and Recognizing Advertisements
The Use of People in Advertising

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) Malaysia also provides the Advertising Code.

The Code contains principles describing the essence of good advertising.

1. All advertisements should be legal, decent, honest and truthful.
2. Advertisements must project the Malaysian culture and identity, reflect the multi-racial character of the population and advocate the philosophy of RUKUN NEGARA.
3. Advertisements must not identify or typecast each particular racial group or sex with vocations, traditional values and backgrounds.
4. Advertisements must comply in every respect with the Law, common or statute.
5. All advertisements should be prepared with a sense of responsibility to consumers and to society.
6. All advertisements should conform to the principles of fair competition as generally accepted in business.
7. No advertisements shall bring advertising into disrepute or reduce confidence in advertising as a service to the industry and to the public.
8. Advertisements must be clearly distinguishable as such.

Youth Policies

1. National Youth Council of Malaysia **Statutes/Legal Acts**

Act 668 YOUTH SOCIETIES AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACT 2007

Source: http://www.kbs.gov.my/dokumen/pekeliling/akta_Belia_bi.pdf

Definition of youth

The National Youth Development Policy of Malaysia defines youth as people aged between 15 and 40 years. It stipulates further that the main focus of youth development programmes and activities in the country should be young people aged 18 to 25 years.

Act 350 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT 1966

The Act defines a child as a person under 14 years of age and a young person as under 16. It sets forth the type of work children and young people can be engaged in, as well as days and hours of work. The Act forbids night work and any work that may harm a child or young person.

Source: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%207/Act%20350.pdf>

Communications and Multimedia Content Code on children

has sections that regulate developing content suitable for children; as well as using children and women in advertising.

Source: <http://www.unicef.org/malaysia/MCMC-Communication-Multimedia-Content-Code-V6.pdf>

Code of Advertising Practice (2008) Advertising Standards Authority Malaysia

The Code which aims to regulate commercial advertising carries a special section on advertising to children. It is a fundamental part of the system of control by which Malaysian advertising regulates its activities. Source: <http://www.asa.org.my/thecode.htm>

Some Youth Specific Laws:

Alcohol

Minimum age for buying and consuming alcohol is 18 years of age, however Muslims are forbidden for consumption of alcohol.

Driving

Minimum age for obtaining a driver's license is at 17 years of age.

Drugs: Act 234 - DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT 1952

Harsh punishments for those who carry and use drugs. Capital punishment is used.
(Source: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%205/Act%20234.pdf>)

Education

National language as the main medium of instruction except a national-type school established under section 28. The National Curriculum is to be used by all schools with compulsory primary education and the teaching of the Islamic religion
Source: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2011/Act%20550.pdf>

Identity Card Act 78 - NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT 1959

Once a citizen of Singapore reaches the age of 12, he/she needs to register for a MyKad. However, children under the age of 12 can apply for the MyKid.

Source: <http://www.jpn.gov.my/en/identitycard>,
<http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%202/Act%2078.pdf>

Civil Marriage - Act 164 LAW REFORM (MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE) ACT 1976

There is civil and Islamic marriage. The minimum consent marrying age for males is 18, for females 16. This Act shall not apply to a Muslim or to any person who is married under Islamic law and no marriage of one of the parties which professes the religion of Islam shall be solemnized or registered under this Act;

Source: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%204/Act%20164.pdf>

Islamic Marriage - Act 303 ISLAMIC FAMILY LAW (FEDERAL TERRITORIES) ACT 1984

- (1) No man shall marry a non-Muslim except a *Kitabiyah*.
- (2) No woman shall marry a non-Muslim.

Movies

18+ rated films require an accompanying adult for underage patrons, though cinemas reserve the right to refuse sale or deny admission to underage's even with adult accompaniment as they see fit or needed.

Source: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2013/Act%20620.pdf>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship_in_Malaysia

National Service Training Programme

The conscripts are 18-year-old youths that are selectively drafted into the three-month program.

Nightclubs

Minimum age for entry into nightclubs - 21 years old.

Sex

The age of consent for sex in [Malaysia](#) is 16 for both males and females. It is illegal for homosexuals.

Source: <http://www.lawyerment.com/library/kb/Families/Marriage/1019.htm>

Smoking - Act 281 - FOOD ACT 1983

Prior to May 1994, there is no legal age on smoking. Starting May 15, 1994, cigarettes can only be sold to persons aged 18 and above, and selling cigarettes to persons under this age is illegal.

Source: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%206/Act%20281.pdf>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoking_age#Malaysia

2. Government Regulations and Statutes For Youths:

(a) National Youth Development Policy

The National Youth Development Policy of Malaysia was first issued by the Cabinet in 1985 and revised in 1997. It serves as a framework for the planning and implementation of youth programmes in the country.

The 1985 Policy recognized youth as a resource with tremendous potential to contribute to the overall development of the country. It had the following principles:

- To uphold the principles of *Rukunegara* (Pillars of the Nation);
- To uphold the spirit of solidarity, volunteerism and autonomy;
- To develop leadership qualities;
- To encourage participation in the decision-making process at all levels;
- To develop high moral values and awareness of the importance of personal health and fitness; and
- To acquire broad knowledge in all relevant fields.

Universities and University Colleges Act of 1971, which remains in effect today. The Act banned students from holding political office in organizations outside the university such as trade unions and political parties. In 1975, the Act was amended to further limit student involvement in politics. They were prohibited from becoming members of, or expressing any form of support for, political parties or trade unions. Section 15 of the Act prohibits a student or a student organization, body or group from associating with outside organizations, except as provided under the Constitution or approved by the Vice-Chancellor of the respective university. The Section also prohibits fundraising by a student or a student organization. It defines criminal liability of office-bearers of a student organization and rules on suspension and expulsion of students charged with criminal offences. Section 16 empowers university Vice-Chancellors to suspend or dissolve any student organization that conducts itself in a manner which a Vice-Chancellor considers detrimental or prejudicial to the interests or well-being of the respective university.

- Act 550 [National Education Act 1996](#)

Historical Development of Mass Media

Print Media

Very much like the rest of the developing world, the advent of the printing presses and the mass media in then Malaya was brought about by European colonialism.

The first newspaper that was published in what is now known as Malaysia was the English-language Government Gazette, which was later christened as the Prince of Wales Island Gazette (PWIG).

The PWIG began publication on March 1, 1806 on the island of Penang, then a residency called Prince of Wales Island under the control of the British East India Company. Owned by an Indian entrepreneur, A.B. Bone, the PWIG was a commercial newspaper aimed not at the locals but at the colonialists and expatriates.

In the early 1800s, there was no law in the Straits Settlements governing the issuance of newspaper licences. The governor of Penang, however, found it imperative to issue a licence to Bone. Curiously, Bone himself made a request that the PWIG be censored by the government prior to publication.

Hence, it could be argued that this practice marked the beginning of the connection between the state and the press, and also of state intervention in the affairs of the media.

The PWIG endured for 21 years, its final edition being published on July 21, 1827. During that period, a few other newspapers, including non-English language ones, emerged but these normally stopped publication as quickly as they appeared.

Virtually all of the early newspapers, English language or vernacular, were published in the three Straits Settlement states of Singapore, Malacca and Penang.

There are reasons for the lack of newspapers published for the locals and in the Malay language during this period. Firstly, the poor economic status of the local, particularly Malay, community made it uneconomical for any commercially motivated publisher to start a paper in the Malay language.

And secondly, formal education was still non-existent for most people, which meant that literate people were very small in number and therefore made for a constrained market.

Indeed, it was not until 1876 that the first Malay weekly, *Jawi Peranakan*, was published in Singapore. The *Jawi Peranakan* and a few other Malay publications such as *Al-Imam* (1906-08), *Utusan Melayu* (1907-21), and *Lembaga Melayu* (1914-31) substantially helped to provide intellectual, political and religious leadership in the Malay community by highlighting issues regarding the development of the Malay community.

At about the same time, *Singai Warthamani*, the first Tamil newspaper published in British Malaya in 1875, joined subsequent publications by concentrating on social issues that concerned the Indian community, particularly issues that revolved around rubber estates.

In Sarawak, the publication of the Sarawak Gazette in 1870 marked the beginning of the history of the press in the state. In 1908, another newspaper, Sarawak Government Gazette, emerged. The first Malay newspaper, Fajar Sarawak, was published in 1930, and Chinese language newspapers Shen Won Kie Min Sing Pao and Xi Min Ri Bao were published in 1913 and 1927 respectively.

After the surrender of the Japanese military in Malaya in 1945, many of the newspapers that were outlawed during the Japanese Occupation, such as the Utusan Melayu, The Straits Times and the Malay Mail, made a comeback, while new ones, such as the Suara Rakyat, emerged.

This happened at a time when Malay nationalism was surging, especially provoked by the British proposal for a Malayan Union which was strongly opposed by many Malays. Malay language newspapers such as the Utusan Melayu, Majlis and Warta Negara played a key role in raising Malay consciousness regarding the controversial issue of the Malayan Union.

Four years into Merdeka, an incident occurred in the Malayan press that had far-reaching implications for the future of press freedom in the country. In 1961, a revived Utusan Melayu was entangled in a fight between its journalists and other workers, on one hand, and the ruling United Malays National Organisation (Umno), on the other, over the important issue of press freedom.

The newspaper workers, under the leadership of its former chief editor Said Zahari, championed editorial independence while Umno insisted that the newspaper, which was highly influential within the Malay community should give full support to the party. A 93-day strike ensued which ended with Umno, given its majority shareholding power, taking over the newspaper.

The growth of the media industry in Malaysia was spurred by the New Economic Policy (NEP) following its implementation in 1970, and especially by the privatization policy that was undertaken in the early 1980s by the Mahathir administration.

Consequently, a number of new titles of newspapers and magazines and new TV and radio stations made inroads into the media industry. Indeed, there was a quantitative growth in the industry.

Broadcast Media

The broadcast industry in Malaysia began with the introduction of the wireless set by British in 1921 to facilitate their businesses in the region. This mode of broadcast was the main form of communication throughout Malaysia until radio was eventually introduced in the 1940s. The broadcast industry was actually formalized with the formation of “Radio Malaya” on 1st April 1946 by the British to rally support for the Union Jack’s return after the Second World War. TV was first introduced on 28th December 1963 and was merged with radio on 11th October 1969. RTM monopoly of the broadcast industry came to an end in 1985 when the government issued license to TV3, the first private TV. This was followed by three more terrestrial private TV, i.e, NTV7, Channel 9 and 8TV. Recently, NTV7 was consolidated

under the wing of Media Prima, the biggest media player in Malaysia which controls TV3, Channel 9 and 8TV. ASTRO was given a 20 year exclusive right to broadcast commercial satellite TV programs in Malaysia. MiTV and Fine TV were introduced in 2005 using wireless broadband telecast and high-speed interactive access via ADSL.

Apart from government-run RTM's TV1 and TV2 channels, Malaysians witnessed the birth of private TV station TV3 that started transmission on June 1, 1984, the first of its kind under the privatization policy. This was followed by 8TV, after it was revamped, which started broadcasting on Jan 8, 2004. ntv7 began transmission on April 7, 1998 and TV9 on April 22 last year.

Apart from these free-to-air-TV stations that come under the stable of conglomerate Media Prima, another major broadcasting player also appeared on the scene in the mid-1990s. Astro, a subscription-based direct broadcast satellite, or direct-to-home satellite, television and radio service began operation in 1996.

The government-run wire service, Bernama, also launched its own TV news channel in 1998 in an apparent attempt to provide news content for the growing broadcasting industry.

Over the years, as implied above, the media industry in Malaysia has witnessed a growing and troubling trend of media ownership concentration and consolidation, which was triggered by economic and, to some extent, political considerations.

Youth participation in the media is encouraged through two main channels: Youth Quake and Speak Up. Youth Quake is a section of the New Straits Times newspaper that caters to youth. All articles are written by youth on subjects that are relevant to young people. Speak Up is a television programme run by youth that is broadcast weekly in English and in Mandarin on TV3, a private television channel. The programme is run by youth and it encourages young people to voice their views and opinions on a variety of topics.

Historical Development of New Media

Over the years, as implied above, the media industry in Malaysia has witnessed a growing and troubling trend of media ownership concentration and consolidation, which was triggered by economic and, to some extent, political considerations.

Such a phenomenon prevails primarily because of the laws that govern the mainstream media, namely the Printing Presses and Publications Act for the press and the Communications and Multimedia Act for the broadcasting industry and the Internet, which invariably empower the ministers concerned to determine who can or cannot own and run the mainstream press and broadcasting stations.

This situation certainly has serious implications on press freedom and the media's qualitative diversity because media ownership concentration tends to constrain the diversity of content and viewpoints in the mainstream newspapers and broadcasting

stations, especially when most owners of these media organizations are associated with the ruling coalition or constitute their economic allies.

In other words, the parameters of freedom and space found in the mainstream media are directly or indirectly prescribed by the powers-that-be.

Such a media environment has also brought about a worrying culture of self-censorship within the journalistic fraternity. In this context, laws such as the Official Secrets Act, Sedition Act and the Internal Security Act also have a chilling effect on journalists.

It is, therefore, not surprising that many Malaysians have turned to the alternative and new media for new sources of information, news and views. This was most evident after the sacking of then deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in 1998, which triggered the call for reformasi.

At the height of the movement, many people sought alternative publications such as Harakah, Detik, Tamadun and Aliran Monthly, as well as websites and news portals such as Malaysiakini.

Although the movement has petered out over the years and many of the reformasi-motivated websites have since died a natural death, the yearning for better media still exists among certain quarters of society because some sections of the mainstream media still suffer from a credibility gap.

This explains, in part, the recent and growing popularity of websites, especially blogs, a few of which provide incisive political analyses as well as a certain degree of investigative journalism that is absent in the mainstream media.

Blogging has become a household term now, what with the recent skirmishes between the state and the ruling party on one side and bloggers such as Jeff Ooi, Ahirudin Attan, Nathaniel Tan and Raja Petra Kamarudin (of the increasingly popular website Malaysia Today) on the other.

The vibrancy and growth of blogs and websites is indicative that something is amiss within the mainstream media, and of the status of media freedom in the country.

While it is true that there are blogs and websites that are problematic or even scandalous in nature, placing certain obstacles or issuing threats against particular Net users is not really a panacea to the ailments that have inflicted the mass media in general.

If anything, this does not augur well for the pronounced policy of transparency, accountability and good governance.

Political Culture and Climate

Political stability will come under moderate threat during the next five years, not because of any major shift in the balance of power, but rather owing to internal strife within both the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition= and the main opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) alliance. The BN, which is tightly controlled by its largest constituent party, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), is set to remain in government during

the forecast period, during which time there will be a general election. (The next election= must be held by April 2013 but is likely to happen sooner, most likely in 2012.). Although the last general election, in 2008, revealed that UMNO could no longer count on the strong support of the majority of Malays, the PR still does not offer a sufficiently credible, stable alternative to the BN.

The BN's success in remaining in a position of strength will depend largely on whether it manages to keep its power bases intact in Sabah and Sarawak, on the island of Borneo. BN legislators from the two states make up more than one-third of the BN's total of 137 members of parliament (MPs). The outcome of the recent Sarawak state election, in which the ruling coalition retained its two thirds majority but lost eight seats to the opposition PR, was not the resounding victory that the BN had hoped for. Unresolved issues, such as illegal foreign immigration to Sabah, may cause the BN parties based in Borneo, or individual MPs from that region, to defect to the opposition in the national parliament or use the threat of such action to secure greater influence within the coalition in the run-up to the next general election. Although voters in the rural heartland of peninsular Malaysia continue to support UMNO, there have been suggestions that the party has lost the support of a significant number of educated, liberal middle-class Malays. This decline in support may have intensified as Internet news sites and blogs have exposed government corruption and the political intrigues of individual members of the ruling administration. More conservative Malays have meanwhile been voicing concerns about the government's plan to reform policies favouring *bumiputera* (ethnic Malays and other indigenous peoples), as they believe that the special rights accorded to them in the constitution may be rescinded. Recent by-election victories for the BN raised hopes that the ruling coalition had succeeded in strengthening its appeal to the country's smaller ethnic communities, but the outcome of the Sarawak state election, in which the BN lost six seats to the ethnic-Chinese-dominated Democratic Action Party (DAP) and another two to Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR, a component of the PR), suggests that much work needs to be done in this area before the BN makes a bid to increase its parliamentary majority at national level and also win back control of state assemblies that it lost to the opposition coalition in the 2008 elections. UMNO's internal leadership elections, which have been postponed until 2012, could be a source of political instability in the forecast period, particularly if the party fails to secure a clear victory at federal and state level in the next elections. Under such circumstances, the credibility of the prime minister, Najib Razak, would be undermined, putting his position as president of UMNO and hence his role as head of the government at risk. This in turn could halt, or even reverse, Mr Najib's programme of economic reforms. The most likely contender to become UMNO's next leader is the deputy prime minister, Muhyiddin Yassin. The leader of the PR, Anwar Ibrahim, a former deputy prime minister, is likely to be convicted on a charge of sodomy in the coming months. Mr Anwar claims that the case against him is politically motivated. Without him, the ties that unite the disparate parties making up the PR. the reformist, multicultural PKR, the conservative, Islamist Parti Islam se-Malaysia and the left-of-centre DAP are likely to fray, while the process of choosing a new PR spokesman could deepen the divisions within Mr Anwar's PKR as well as between the opposition coalition's member parties.

The next general election is expected to take place ahead of schedule. Traditionally, the BN has preferred to call elections about a year before the end of its current term of office, and this suggests that the next election could be held in early 2012. Speculation that the poll will take place this year persists, but the outcome of the Sarawak state

election, which showed that the BN had yet to win the full support of ethnic minorities (in this case, Chinese voters) indicates that more work needs to be done to address this problem. The BN will need far higher levels of support than it received in the Sarawak poll if it is to win a two-thirds majority at the next national election and also regain control of the state assemblies that it lost to the opposition in 2008. The support of ethnic Chinese is particularly important in the opposition controlled states of Selangor and Penang, where they account for 28% and 41% of the population respectively.

Whenever it takes place, the next parliamentary election will see the cash strapped opposition PR alliance pitted against the BN's well-oiled political machine. The BN is well positioned to win the poll, although how wide its margin of victory will be remains unclear. Mr Najib has worked hard at presenting the image of a politician who is committed to economic reform, but this attitude has yet to resonate among the country's ethnic-minority population, the majority of whom voted for the PR in the 2008 general election. The opposition alliance, for its part, faces a number of obstacles to its bid to wrest power from the BN. Aside from the fact that the PR has less money than the BN, its appeal could be undermined by a newly formed civil rights group, the Malaysian Civil Society Movement (MCSM), and by the recently founded Parti Kesejahteraan Insan Tanah Air (KITA, People's Welfare Party), led by Zaid Ibrahim, who resigned from the PKR in 2010. Both organisations have declared their intention of fielding candidates at the next general election. The PR currently has 76 parliamentary seats, and it is possible that at least one-half of these could be contested by the MCSM, the KITA or both, thereby potentially taking votes from the opposition alliance.

Relations with Singapore have become closer in recent years, and during the forecast period we expect this trend to continue, particularly in the area of economic ties. The governments of Malaysia and Singapore no longer bicker constantly over minor issues, although a degree of racially tinged wariness persists. China will become an increasingly important trading partner in the next five years. The Malaysian government's apprehension about China's rise and growing economic influence is mixed with ambivalence towards the ethnic-Chinese members of its own country's population and an awareness of the need to attract investment. As Malaysia's economic dependence on China grows, uneasiness in Malaysia about Chinese power in South-east Asia is likely to increase. Malaysia is also keen to strengthen relations with India. The two countries expect growth in trade between them to accelerate, following the signing of a bilateral free-trade agreement in February.

Election Watch

The ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition and the opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) alliance have spent the past month digesting the results of the Sarawak state election, which was held on April 16th. The results show a significant swing of support away from the BN across all ethnic groups. They also show overwhelming support for the PR among younger voters. The local media presented the BN's losses as having been caused by the strong support of Chinese voters in urban areas for the mainly ethnic-Chinese Democratic Action Party (DAP), one of the three parties in the PR alliance. The real surprise was that all the major ethnic groups showed stronger swings towards the PR than did the Chinese. Because this support started from a much narrower base, the overall impact was smaller. But the change can nonetheless be considered a watershed in Sarawak's political history. A large number of young people have yet to put their names

on the electoral register. Assuming that the voting pattern in Sarawak is repeated nationwide, an increase in registration among younger members of the population could deny the BN a two-thirds parliamentary majority at the next national parliamentary election.

Sarawak remains strategically important to the BN. Currently, members of the national parliament from the state of Sarawak (who come from various component groups of the BN) account for nearly one-quarter of the total number of seats held by the ruling coalition. In order to retain this proportion at the next parliamentary election, the prime minister, Najib Razak, will have to make good on his promise to voters in Sarawak that the state's chief minister, Taib Mahmud, who is generally considered to be the cause of the loss of votes at the state election, would leave soon. A newly formed non-governmental group, the Movement for Change, Sarawak, is demanding that Mr Mahmud step down by August 13th, or else face a people's revolution that would include massive street protests. The organisation wants Mr Taib, who heads the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak, to hand over power to his deputy, Abang Johari Openg. The PR won 15 seats in the Sarawak state election, more than doubling its representation in the 71-seat state assembly. Nonetheless, the election failed to live up to the high expectations raised during the campaign and left the Sarawak branches of the PR divided. Most of the gains (12 seats) were made by the DAP, which, boosted by its success, demanded that it be allowed to field its own candidates in more parliamentary constituencies in the state at the next general election. The DAP has also been encouraged by a large increase in its support base from non-Chinese voters. To help it to reach out to rural areas, especially among the Dayaks, the DAP proposed a merger with a local Sarawak party, the Sarawak National Party (SNAP), but this idea was rejected by one of the DAP's coalition partners, Parti Keadilan Rakyat. In the weeks leading up to the state election, SNAP had already fallen out with the PKR over seat allocations and had refused to join the PR. SNAP fielded candidates in 26 seats but failed to win any of them. The PKR contested 49 seats, many of them in rural areas with Dayak majorities, but won just three.

The outcome of the Sarawak election may prompt the largest party in the BN, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), to adjust its political strategy in the months ahead. Instead of trying to win the full backing of the ethnic-Chinese community, UMNO may turn its attention to securing a larger proportion of the Malay vote. Repeated appeals to the Parti Islam se-Malaysia (an Islamist party that is part of the PR) to unite for the sake of Islam have failed. Realistically, UMNO has nearly two years to pursue a strategy of consolidating the Malay vote before its term of office expires, but speculation remains rife that a parliamentary election will be held earlier. The leader of the opposition, Anwar Ibrahim, believes that polls could be held before the holy month of Ramadan, which will last throughout August, or soon afterwards. Yet there may be an important financial reason why a parliamentary election might not take place this year. It is rumoured that campaign funds at UMNO have been heavily depleted by the party's campaign in Sarawak. Former prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed, has also warned against calling elections this year because racial divisions in the country are too deep at present.

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Philippines

Clarissa David
University of Philippines

Population and literacy (various years):

Population	Figure	Year	Source
Total	88.57M	2007	Census.gov.ph
Projected	94.01M	2010	Census.gov.ph
Growth rate	2.04%	2000-2007	2007 Philippine yearbook
Simple literacy	92.3%	2000	2007 Philippine yearbook
Functional literacy	86.04%	2008	2007 Philippine yearbook

Youth population:

Table --. Household Population by Age Group and Sex (Philippines, 2007)

Age group	Both sexes	Male	Female
All Ages	88,304,615	44,583,853	43,720,762
Under 1	2,069,785	1,064,642	1,005,143
1-4	8,503,596	4,375,823	4,127,773
5-9	10,617,528	5,477,180	5,140,348
10-14	10,198,111	5,213,422	4,984,689
15-19	9,280,863	4,729,049	4,551,814
20-24	7,746,585	3,911,296	3,835,289
25-29	7,169,096	3,603,159	3,565,937
30-34	6,148,709	3,110,752	3,037,957
35-39	5,852,763	2,973,897	2,878,866
40-44	4,956,453	2,510,832	2,445,621
45-49	4,233,366	2,145,316	2,088,050
50-54	3,449,129	1,729,614	1,719,515
55-59	2,579,783	1,279,103	1,300,680
60-64	1,834,627	876,292	958,335
65-69	1,416,423	650,815	765,608
70-74	1,020,530	449,174	571,356
75-79	621,941	258,542	363,399
80 and over	605,327	224,945	380,382
0-17	37,204,548	19,107,174	18,097,374
18 and over	51,100,067	25,476,679	25,623,388

Source: census.gov.ph

Figure --. Household Population by Age Group and Sex (Philippines, 2007)

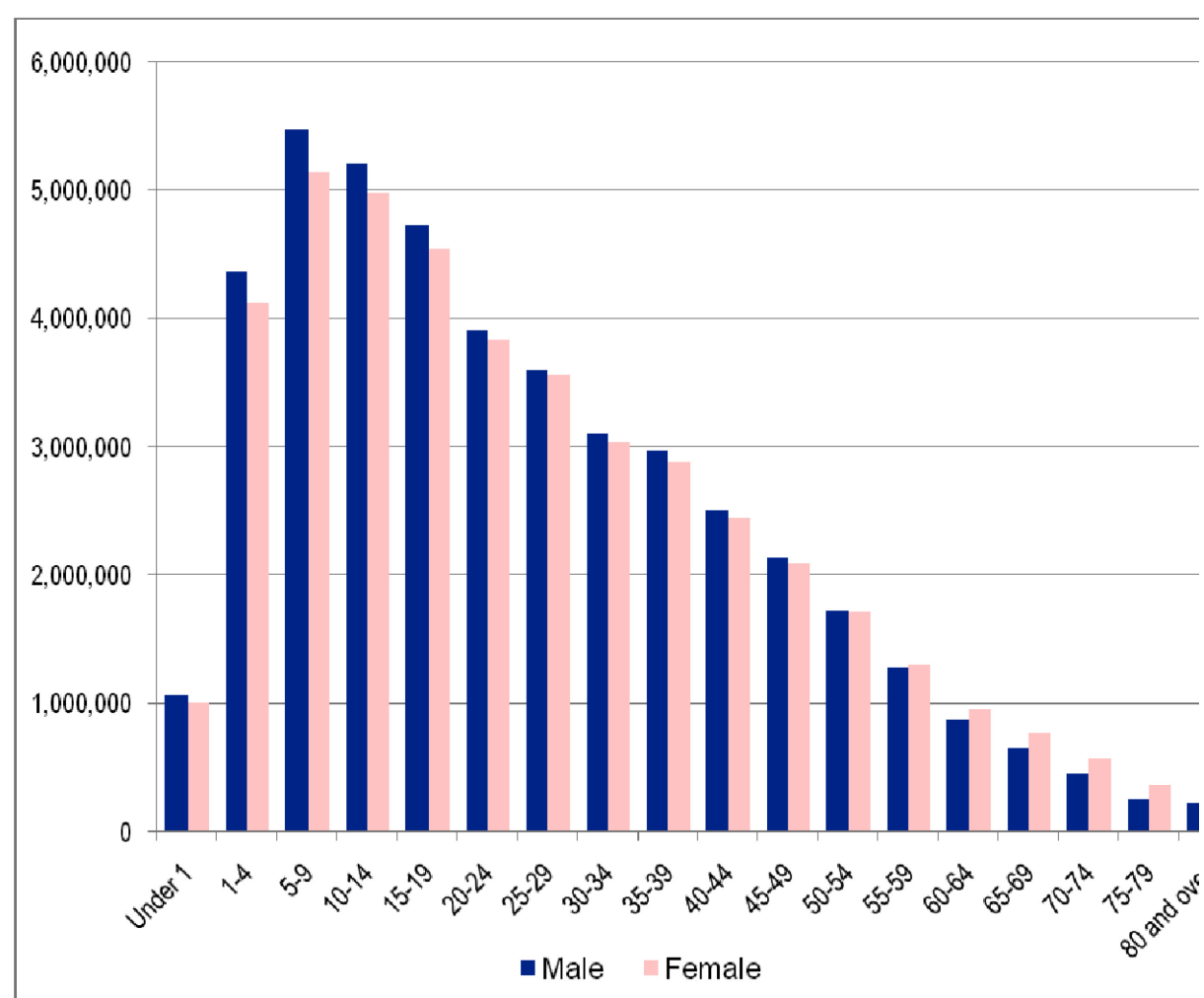
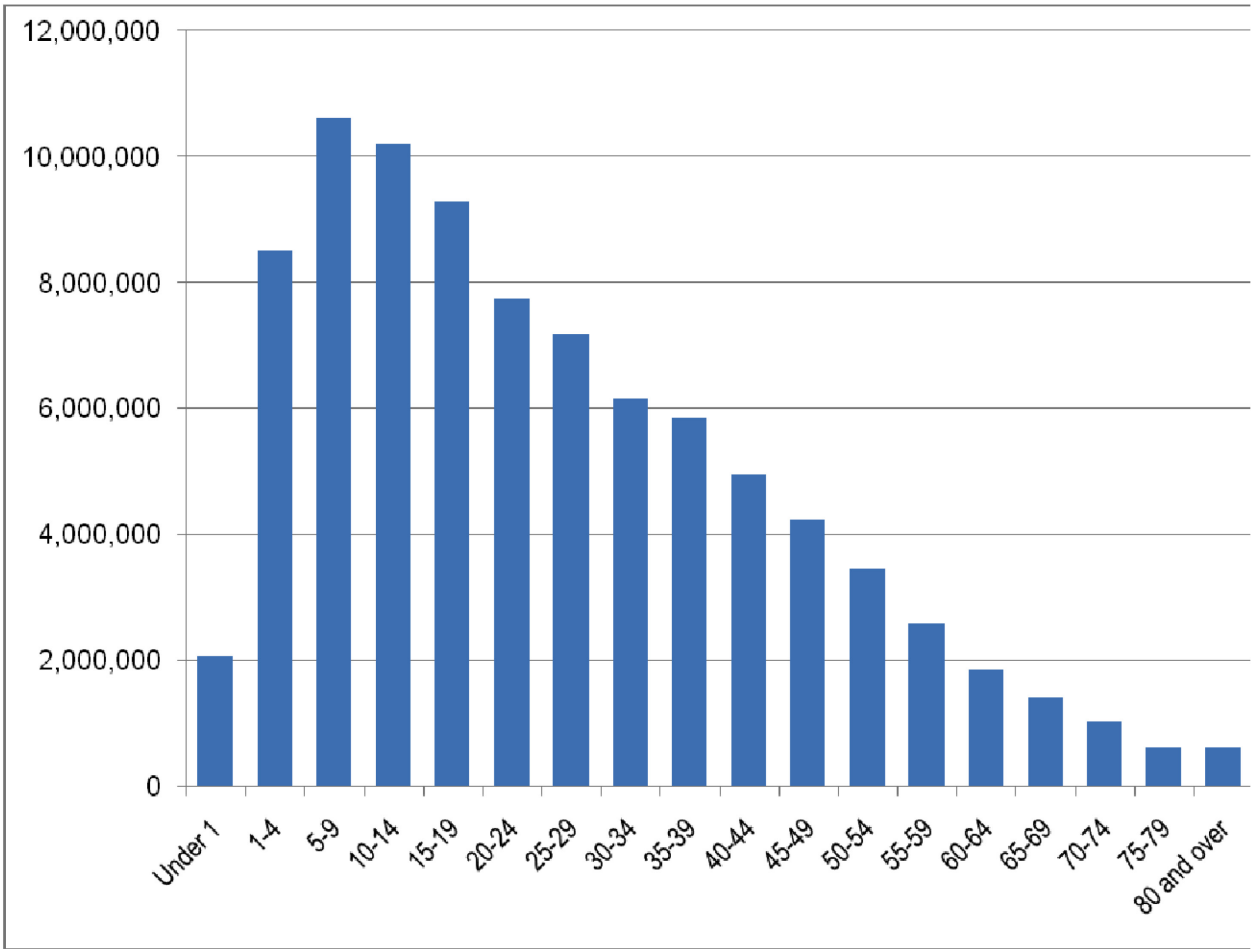


Figure --. Household Population by Age Group (Philippines, 2007)



Economic growth:

Table: Annual GDP and GNP growth

	GDP (%)	GNP (%)
2003-2004	6.4	6.9
2004-2005	5.0	5.4
2005-2006	5.3	5.4
2006-2007	7.1	7.5
2007-2008	3.7	6.4
2008-2009	1.1	4.0
2009-2010	7.3	7.2

Source:

http://www.nscb.gov.ph/announce/2011/GDP_GNP_Growth_1946_2010.pdf

Communication:

	Figure	Year	Source
Landline tel density	8.35/100	2008	2010 Yearbook
Cellular phone density	75.28/100	2008	2010 Yearbook
Population covered by mobile network	99%		http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/CMS/Events/2010/ITU-ADB/Philippines/Overview.pdf
Internet penetration rate	29.7%	2010	http://www.internetworldstats.com/asia/ph.htm
Computer ownership	7%	2007	http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/CMS/Events/2010/ITU-ADB/Philippines/Overview.pdf
Fixed broadband density	.6%	2008	http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/CMS/Events/2010/ITU-ADB/Philippines/Overview.pdf

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Policies Regarding Political Engagement

Philippine Constitution 1987

Section 4. No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

Section 7. The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.

Section 8. The right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law shall not be abridged.

Section 18. (1) No person shall be detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations.

Article V. Suffrage

Section 1. may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year, and in the place wherein they propose to vote, for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage.

Section 2. The Congress shall provide a system for securing the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot as well as a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad.

The Congress shall also design a procedure for the disabled and the illiterates to vote without the assistance of other persons. Until then, they shall be allowed to vote under existing laws and such rules as the Commission on Elections may promulgate to protect the secrecy of the ballot.

Source: <http://www.chanrobles.com/philsupremelaw1.htm>

The Public Assembly Act of 1985

An Act Ensuring the Free Exercise by the People of their Right Peaceably to Assemble and Petition the Government and for Other Purposes

This law declares as policy protection of people's right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances. The State ensures the free exercise of such right without prejudice and to the rights of others to life, liberty and equal protection of the law.

Source: <http://www.chanrobles.com/bataspambansabilang880.htm>

Fair Elections Act

The Fair Elections Act regulates the general conduct of elections during the official campaign period, election day, and the days during which votes are being counted. It prescribes lawful behaviors for media, campaigners, candidates, and survey polling institutions.

<http://www.chanrobles.com/comelecresolutiono3636.htm>

Policies Regarding News Media and Mass Media

Republic Act 53. An Act Exempting the Publisher, Editor or Reporter of any Publication from Revealing the Source of Published News or Information Obtained in Confidence (known popularly as the “shield law”)

This law protects reporters, editors, publishers, or columnists from being compelled to reveal sources of information shared in confidence that was used in a news report or appeared in a publication. Exceptions are made only by decree of the court or a Committee of Congress when revelations are necessary to protect the security of the State.

Source: <http://www.chanrobles.com/republicacts/republicactno1477.html>

Republic Act 7079. Campus Journalism Act of 1991

Approved during the first presidential term after dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted through People Power Revolution in 1986, the Campus Journalism Act provides College campus-based publications the same level of protection as the rest of the Philippine press. The law is implemented by the Department of Education. (Teodoro and Kabatay)

Source: <http://www.chanrobles.com/republicactno7079.html>

Chapter 1, Section 1, Article 353 of the Philippine Revised Penal Code

LIBEL

Philippine law provides protections against acts of libel, defined in the penal code as a public and malicious imputation of a crime that tends to cause dishonor, discredit, or contempt to a living or dead person. Regardless of whether the publicized information is fact or fiction, if the intent is defamatory and malicious as well as public then the act can be considered libelous.

Source: <http://www.chanrobles.com/revisedpenalcodeofthephilippinesbook2.htm>

The Movie Review and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB)

In addition to regulating and rating movies screened in the Philippines, the MTRCB also holds some regulatory power over television content. In particular the entity is charged with reviewing public affairs programs, news documentaries, socio-political editorials

and other similar programming in local television. They have a right to review all such content before the station airs them. Many have attempted to challenge this power to censor based on principles of freedom of speech and expression (freedom of the press) but were rebuffed by the Supreme Court repeatedly.

Source: Teodoro & Kabatay, pp. 71-73

Limits to Freedoms of Speech, expression, and of the press and to the right to information

-Source: Teodoro & Kabatay, pp. 224-260

1. Right to Privacy. Privacy of communication and correspondence (Constitution Bill of Rights, Article III, Sections 2 and 3)
2. Special laws regarding treatment of stories involving criminal offenders who are legally minors, rape victims, victims of child abuse, and individuals who are HIV positive
3. Reporting on matters of national security.
4. Libel
5. Obscenity

Policies Regarding New Media

Internet is Mass Media

<http://www.chanrobles.com/ecommercedojopiniono0401998.htm>

Republic Act 8792. Electronic Commerce Act (June 14, 2000)

<http://www.chanrobles.com/republicactno8792.htm>

Commission on ICT

The Commission shall be the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, regulating, and administrative entity of the executive branch of Government that will promote, develop, and regulate integrated and strategic ICT systems and reliable and cost-efficient communication facilities and services.

Source:

http://www.cict.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=45&Itemid=82

Other New Media Provisions:

- Information Technology and e-Commerce Council (ITECC, 2000) is policy body—represented by public and private sectors and chaired by President
- National Information Technology Plan (1994)
- Department of ICT (DICT) will be policy-making body after passed by law
- National IT Plan (1998) - IT21

- In 1994, the National Information Technology Council (NITC) was created and designated as the central policy body on IT matters in the country. Four years later in 1998, the Electronic Commerce Promotion Council (ECPC) was created to be the coordinating body of public-private partnerships for the promotion and development of e-commerce. In July 2000, NITC and the ECPC were merged, coinciding with the approval of GISP. The merger resulted in the Information Technology and Electronic Commerce Council (ITECC <<http://www.itecc.gov.ph>>).

Source: <http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/ph/>

Youth Policies

Republic Act No. 8044 (Enacted in 1995)

An act creating the National Youth Commission, establishing a national comprehensive and coordinated program on youth development, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes

Sec. 2. Policy. — The State recognizes its responsibility to enable the youth to fulfill their vital role in nation-building and hereby establishes the National Comprehensive and Coordinated Program on Youth Development, creates the structures to implement the same and appropriates adequate funds to provide support for the program and implementing structures on a continuing sustained basis.

The State hereby declares that "*Youth*" is the critical period in a person's growth and development from the onset of adolescence towards the peak of mature, self-reliant and responsible adulthood comprising the considerable sector of the population from the age of fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years.chan robes virtual law library

The State further declares the National Comprehensive and Coordinated Program on Youth Development shall be based on the following principles:

- (a) Promotion and protection of the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth to the end that the youth realize their potential for improving the quality of life;
- (b) Inculcation in the youth of patriotism, nationalism and other basic desirable values to infuse in them faith in the Creator, belief in the sanctity of life and dignity of the human person, conviction for the strength and unity of the family and adherence to truth and justice;
- (c) Encouragement of youth involvement in character-building and development activities for civic efficiency, stewardship of natural resources, agricultural and industrial productivity, and an understanding of world economic commitments on tariffs and trade and participation in structures of policy-making and program implementation to reduce the incidence of poverty and accelerate socioeconomic development; and

(d) Mobilization of youth's abilities, talents and skills and redirecting their creativity, inventive genius and wellspring of enthusiasm and hope for the freedom of our people from fear, hunger and injustice.

Highlights:

Sec. 6. The Commission shall be independent and autonomous and shall have the same status as that of national government agency attached to the Office of the President.

Sec. 8. Objectives

b. To encourage wide and active participation of the youth in all government and nongovernmental programs, projects and activities affecting them

Child and Youth Welfare Code and the Family Code of the Philippines
(<http://www.chanrobles.com/childandyouthwelfarecodeofthephilippines.htm>,
<http://www.chanrobles.com/executiveorderno209.htm>)

Presidential Decree No. 603 (1974) or the Child and Youth Welfare Code covers those people below the age of 21 and consists of provisions for the protection of children's rights, among others, including access to educational services and duties of the parents. The Code also established the Council for the Welfare of Children which has the authority to promulgate the rules and regulation for the implementation of the law.

The Family Code of the Philippines (Executive Order 209) restricts marriage to any male or female 18 years old and above.

Sangguniang Kabataan or Youth Council
(<http://dilgbicor.org/legal/related-laws/item/391-sk-constitution-and-by-laws.html>)

Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) or Youth Council was created in 1991 as the youth arm of the local government. It replaced another youth council called Kabataang Barangay (KB) which was established by former President Ferdinand Marcos in 1975 but was abolished when the Local Government Code of 1991 was enacted.

Medium-Term Youth Development Program (MTYDP) 2005-2010
(<http://nyc.gov.ph/images/downloads/2005-2010-MTYDP-draft-REVISED-01122005.pdf>)

Also known as the National Framework for Youth Development, the Medium-Term Youth Development Program is anchored on the Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan and drafted by the National Youth Commission (NYC). The document provides a framework for "prioritizing, planning, implementing, and monitoring youth-centered programs all over the country" and is a result of the Youth Attributes, Participation, and Service-Providers (YAPS) study and dialogues among the delegates of the National Youth Parliament.

Executive Order No. 788, Promoting a Youth National Service
(<http://www.dswd.gov.ph/phocadownload/ao2009/AO%20No.%206%20s.%202009.pdf>)

In March 2009, former President Macapagal-Arroyo issued EO No. 788 “Promoting a Youth National Service” which established the National Service Corps and a Youth Conservation Corps that shall focus on the potential contributions of unemployed or underemployed youth to social welfare and development programs in communities.

Adolescent and Youth Health (AYH) Policy and Adolescent and Youth Health and Development Program (AYHDP)

(http://www.youth-policy.com/Policies/Philippines_Youth_ARH_Policy.cfm?ignore&r=A481113,
http://www.doh.gov.ph/programs/adolescent_health/ayhdp.html)

On April 10, 2000, the Department of Health (DOH) issued Administrative Order No. 34-A or the Adolescent and Youth Health (AYH) Policy, with a general objective of institutionalizing a comprehensive program that address the pressing health needs of Filipino adolescents (10-19 years old) and youth (15 to 24 years old). Some of the objectives of the Adolescent and Youth Health and Development Program (AYHDP) are the reduction of teenage pregnancies, increase in health-seeking behavior among adolescents, increase in knowledge of fertility and sexuality among adolescents, and increase in health facilities that provide health services to adolescents and youth.

Historical Development of Mass Media

Philippine mass media are defined by law to include print media (all newspapers, magazines, periodicals, journals, and other publications), broadcast-based modes of communication such as radio and television, and all affiliated advertising such as billboards and neon signs (Presidential Decree No. 1018, Teodoro & Kabatay, 2001 p. 8). Ownership of any form of mass media are limited to Filipino citizens or corporations wholly owned and managed by Filipinos (Constitution, Sec 11.1(1)). In the case of corporations or other similar entities that wish to own companies in the advertising industry, Filipino ownership is defined as at least 70% ownership of the capital. By law media industries are supposed to be regulated by the State to protect against monopoly and unfair competition in the interest of the public.

Two critical external factors influence Filipino’s preferences for one mass medium over another. First, the country is very poor, with close to half of the population living below the poverty line some forms of media are simply not within their means. Specifically, newspapers, which incur a daily expense, are not as desirable as television or radio. Second is that high school graduation rates and therefore functional literacy rates remain low. Thus, reading proficiency across the population is highly inequitable.

Television is the most heavily consumed and wide-reaching mass medium in the country, followed by radio and then print. Newspaper (print edition) circulation has historically been low and experiencing marked declines over the past decade. Owing in part to the country’s archipelagic geography of 7,000 islands, transporting newspapers to different areas incurs prohibitive costs. In addition, the main newspapers are published in the English language and are therefore not accessible to large swaths of the population who have limited fluency in reading English and who speak one of the 60+ local dialects.

Newspapers

The three most widely circulated newspapers across the country are the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *The Philippine Star*, and *Manila Bulletin*. Total circulation for each of these publications is only about 250,000 copies (2000 figures, Ables, 2003). There are also a number of smaller papers specializing in business news and a slew of tabloids printed in the local language but containing very little political news. In 2000 there were 12 dailies with nationwide distribution, 16 tabloids, and 32 magazines (Ables, 2003). Until about 10 years ago all the major dailies are printed in Manila or a nearby province, thus, transportation costs to farther islands increase per copy costs from PhP15 in Manila to PhP18 in Cebu City and PhP20 in Davao City, and they arrive late in the day for urban areas or the next day for rural areas. Even with new arrangements of decentralized printing, the small size of the market in Visayas and Mindanao meant essentially no adjustment in pricing. The farther away from Manila the poorer the population gets, therefore newspaper readership remains low in most areas of the country (Ables, 2003). In the late 90s there was a growing trend of publishing provincial newspapers, and as of 2000 there were 454 such publications throughout the country. Still, in a country of roughly 75M in the year 2000, only 1.634M copies of newspapers are bought, a fraction of the circulation of tabloids that in the same year was 3.4M.

Most major Philippine newspapers are now online, some publications have separate editorial staff for the online and the print version, while others completely reproduce stories that appear on print. Online news sites are able to provide real-time updates for ongoing high-profile stories such as President Estrada's impeachment hearings in the Senate (2005, Teodoro & Kabatay, 2001). Readership for Philippine online dailies expands significantly from its print version likely because of the millions of overseas contract workers spread around the globe who try to keep informed about local politics. In 2001, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's online news site www.inquirer.net rose up to become the world's 11th most-read website.

Television

*** to follow, we still working on getting the data, a lot of the market information is proprietary***

The Philippine press is proud to be labeled the most free in Asia, being in the only country that practices practically zero editorial control over content (except for some on television mostly for lewdness and obscenity). Still, it has some serious ills, most notable are poor training in journalistic practice and ethics, very low paygrades for beat reporters in radio and newspapers, which in turn breeds corruption among journalists in the smaller media outlets. Operating within an unwritten protocol some have labeled "envelopmental journalism," columnists and beat reporters would attend press events, take envelopes with money in it and write positively about a candidate. Low salaries from radio and newspaper outfits, along with almost nonexistent travel budgets during election season combine to create a working environment where bribe-taking is almost necessary to do any kind of election coverage (Hofilena, 1998). It is the proverbial vicious cycle of media not making enough money to provide decent pay and travel budgets, in turn sacrificing integrity and driving down circulation further.

More sinister restrictions on media are at play even if the constitution has protections in place. Second only to Iraq in 2004, the Philippines was the most dangerous place to work for journalists according to tracking by the International Federation of Journalists. Reporters are assassinated most of the time there is very little investigation and no prosecution as often the main suspects to emerge are local politicians in provinces. Reporters are also silenced by defamation and libel suits that can carry hefty prison terms and fines.

Historical Development of New Media

Source: Townsend & Alampay, 2011. ADB Philippine Country Report (entire section directly lifted)

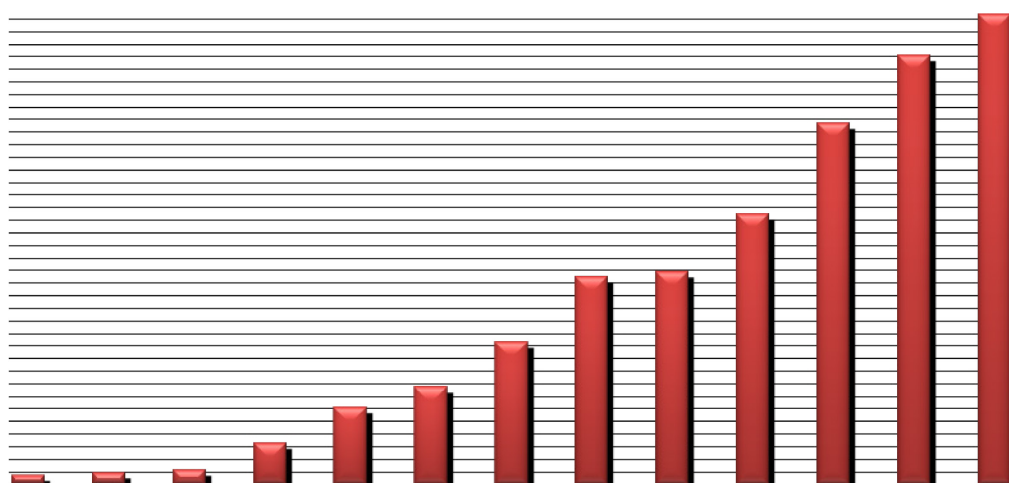
Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

The Philippine mobile market has been marked by rapid growth, particularly during the early to middle part of the past decade, and intense competition. The Philippine government liberalized the communications industry in 1993 after a framework was developed to promote competition within the industry and accelerate market development. Ten operators were initially granted licenses to provide CMTS services and deploy the network technology of their choice – Globe, Innove (previously Islacom), Bayantel, CURE, Digitel, Extelcom, MultiMedia Telephony, Next Mobile (NEXTEL), Piltel and SMART.

Since 2000, the mobile communications industry experienced a number of consolidations, even as new players continued to enter the market. PLDT acquired and consolidated SMART and Piltel in 2000 while Globe Telecom acquired Islacom. In 2003, Digitel formally launched its mobile service under the brand name, Sun Cellular. In 2008, SMART purchased CURE and subsequently launched another wireless brand, Red Mobile. During the same year, San Miguel Corporation partnered with Qatar Telecom and bought interests in Liberty Telecom Holdings, Inc., and announced plans to enter the mobile and broadband businesses. In 2009, Schutzengel Telecom, Inc. was granted a congressional CMTS franchise. It filed an application with the NTC for a provisional authority (PA) to construct, install, operate and maintain a nationwide 3G mobile telecommunications system in February 2010.

Because of intense competition in the mobile market, rapid innovations in technology and quality of services have been made possible. Among the initial innovations which helped spur growth in the local market were (1) the adoption of a GSM platform that addressed quality and security issues previously associated with analog mobile phones; (2) the use of short messaging systems (SMS) or texting, which was introduced by Globe, and Filipinos have embraced as an application like no other, hence gaining the country the reputation as the texting capital of the world; (3) the introduction of prepaid payment accounts, which was then started by SMART and helped drive competition into lower socio-economic stratas of the population; and (4) development of mobile money, which was initially development by SMART, followed by Globe and now also offered by Sun Cellular. Given all these, CMT subscribers grew exponentially over the turn of the century, and have become the most prevalent and accessible means of communication in the Philippines.

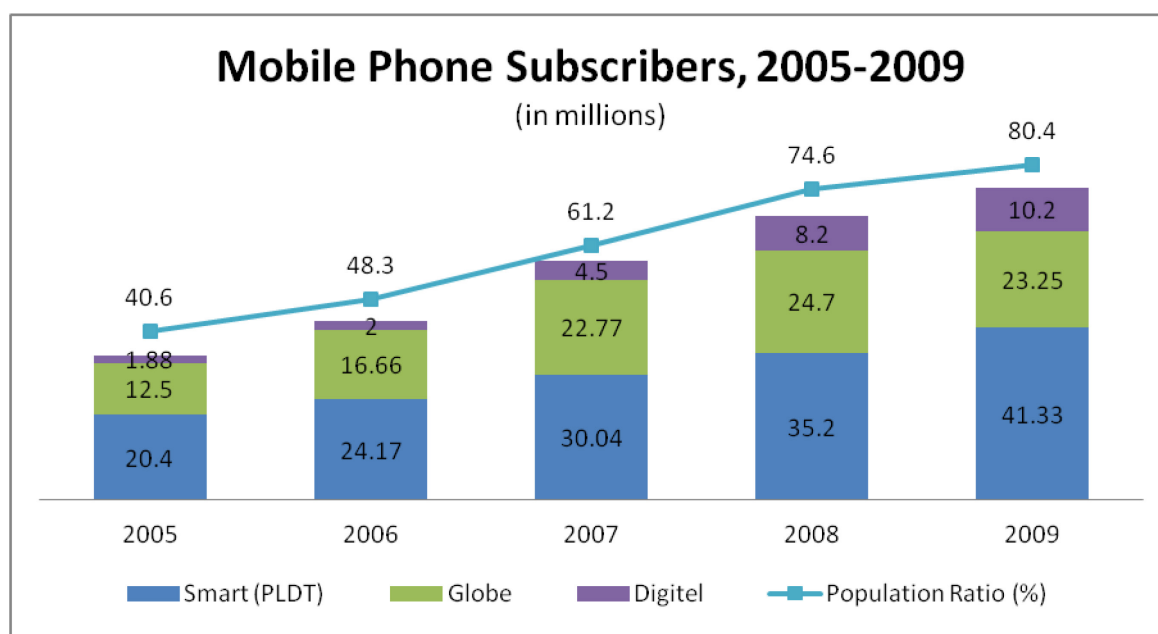
Figure 3.2: Cellular Mobile Subscribers per year (1997-2009)



Source: NTC data

The year 2009 ended seeing the mobile sector with a cumulative industry base of 74.78 million. As nominal penetration rates approach 80% and multiple-SIM usage increases, universal access to mobile has been practically achieved. Hence, even as there's continued growth in the market, the pace is slowing down. The growth rate in 2009 was only 10%, much lower than the 24% growth the previous year, and the 30% in 2007. In terms of market share, SMART controls 55% of the market, followed by Globe (31%) and Sun (14%) (see Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Mobile Phone Subscribers, by provider per year (2005-2009)



Source: JICA Report (Note: Data for 2009 computed from PLDT, Globe Annual Reports and NTC reports)

3.1.2 Internet Access and Broadband

As in other regional countries involved in this study, the Philippines has seen strong growth in Internet and broadband access within the past few years. The number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) registered in the NTC has steadily increased from 64 in 2001 to 300 by 2009.² Internet subscriptions are well over 5 million, with the majority of those now mobile broadband connections. PLDT and Globe are by far the dominant players in this market (see below).

Table 3.4 again provides comparative data for broadband Internet penetration, as well as other indicators such as international bandwidth and personal computer ownership in the Philippines, other study countries, the Lower Middle Income group, and the entire world.

Table 3.4: ICT Penetration: Internet Subscription and Density

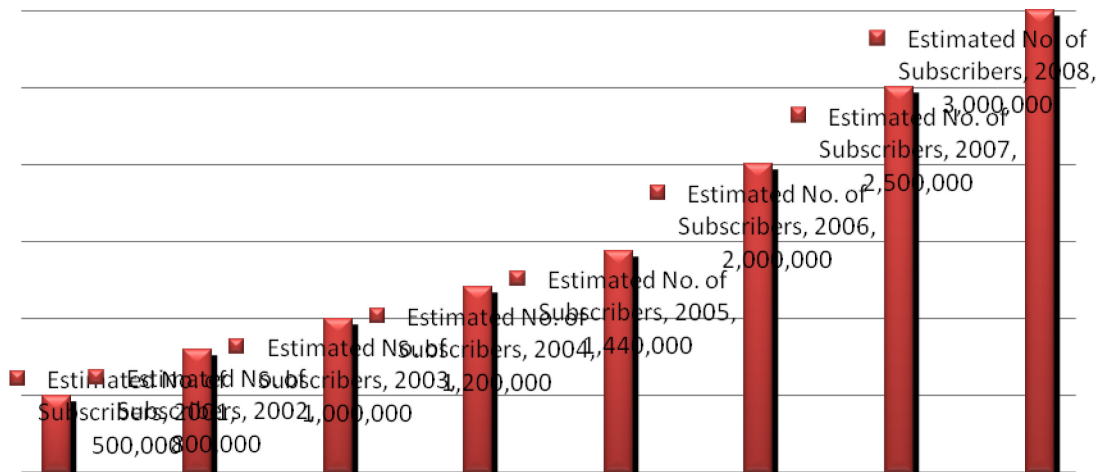
		Averages	Averages		
ICTs - Internet Subscription & Density	Year	Philippines	Project	LM Group	World
Fixed Broadband Subs (000)	2008	496	13,279		
Fixed Broadband Density (%)	2008	0.6%	5.6%	3.0%	7.8%
Fixed Broadband Density (%) (5-year CAGR)	2008	85%	83%	54%	36%
Mobile Broadband (000)	2008	1,149	5,476		
Mobile Broadband Tele-density (%)	2008	1.3%	10.1%	0.6%	6.5%
Int'l Internet Bandwidth (Mb/s)	2007	10,000	67,094		
Int'l Internet Bandwidth/capita(b/s)	2007	113	497	700	3,268
Int'l Internet Bandwidth/capita(b/s) (5-year CAGR)	2007	59%	58%	67%	56%
Personal Computers (1000)	2007	6,300	19,532		
Personal Computers / capita	2007	7%	14%	10%	15%
Personal Computers / capita (5-year CAGR)	2007	28%	22%	40%	12%

Because the base years for the comparison data are 2007-08, the most recent growth is not reflected in these baseline comparisons. In the past 2-3 years, the Philippines has rapidly increased its position in the Internet and broadband segments. Broadband in particular continues to be a major growth area for the local telecom industry. Industry subscribers grew by 77% to 2.5 million in 2009 from 1.4 million the previous year and less than 500,000 in 2008. By the end of the first quarter of 2010, broadband subscriptions had increased to almost 2.8 million.

This growth is being driven by the increasing availability of more affordable prepaid broadband packages, and lower personal computer and USB Internet modem prices. While penetration rates remain low compared with overall world averages, competition in this space is expected to intensify as operators accelerate the rollout of their broadband networks and introduce new offerings to make Internet services more accessible to a larger market base.

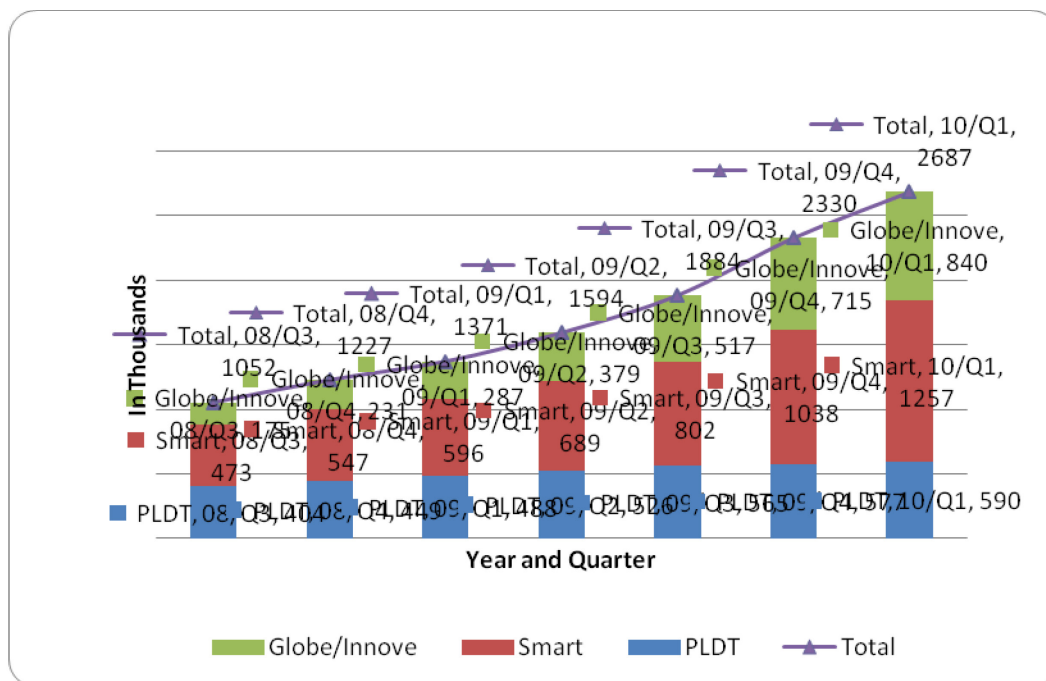
² There is a caveat to this figure, however, as there is no process of 'unregistering' once an ISP closes, and so the data may not capture the phenomena of closures, mergers, and acquisitions.

Figure 3.4: Estimated number of Internet Subscribers



Source: NTC

Figure 3.5: Broadband Subscribers (000)



Source: JICA 2010, updated with Globe and PLDT SEC reports

As of 31 March 2010, Globe and PLDT accounted for almost 96% of cumulative subscribers of 2.8 million (see Table 3.5), with much of the growth in subscribers coming from the prepaid segment. Also, two-thirds of the total subscriber base represents wireless mobile broadband users (i.e., 3G subscribers).

Table 3.5: Broadband Internet Subscribers (31 March 2010)

	Smart/PLDT	Globe	Bayantel/SUN³	Total
Fixed broadband	589,795 (PLDT)	234,253	85,000 (Bayantel)	909,048
Wireless broadband	1,257,031 (SMART)	606,344	20,000 (Sun)	1,863,375
TOTAL Broadband	1,846,826	840,597	105,000	2,792,423

Sources: SEC Updates 1st Quarter, PLDT AND GLOBE ONLY (plus Sun/Digital ext. end of 2009)

In January 2010, Liberty Telecoms Holdings, Inc. (through its Liberty Broadcasting Network subsidiary), a partnership between San Miguel Corporation and Qtel Group of Qatar Telecom, launched its WiMAX broadband service under the brand name Wi-Tribe. With this additional player, competition in the sector is expected to intensify and broadband deployment to increase much faster. In fact, it took a year to add 800,000 new subscribers between the third quarter of 2008 to the same period in 2009. Since then, it has only taken half a year to see the addition of the same number of subscribers.

3.2.3 ITU ICT Development Index (IDI)

One independent and widely accepted metric to evaluate the status of ICT development in a country is the ITU's ICT Development Index (IDI). The ITU developed the IDI as a comprehensive multiple-component index to measure ICT development across countries and time. It is similar in approach to the UNDP's human development index ("HDI"). Key elements of the IDI include sub-indices for ICT Access, Use, and Skills. Table 3.8 shows the key IDI components and indicators for the Philippines.

Table 3.8: ITU ICT Development Index (IDI)

		Averages	Averages		
ITU ICT development index (IDI)	Year	Philippines	Project	LM Group	World
ICT development index (IDI)	2007	2.6	3.1	2.4	3.4
IDI Access sub-index	2007	1.6	3.1	2.6	3.9
IDI Use sub-index	2007	0.3	1.3	0.4	1.4
IDI Skills sub-index	2007	6.9	6.5	5.7	6.3
ICT development index (IDI) (5-year CAGR)	2007	4.9%	6.5%	7.3%	6.5%
IDI Access sub-index (5-year CAGR)	2007	-11.3%	7.4%	13.2%	7.9%
IDI Use sub-index (5-year CAGR)	2007	11.6%	25.3%	36.1%	21.5%
IDI Skills sub-index (5-year CAGR)	2007	0.1%	1.6%	1.5%	1.2%

The Philippines' performance on this Index (2.6 as of 2007) is somewhat lower than the average for all countries in this study (3.1), but slightly higher than the Lower Middle Income (2.4) group average, while well below the overall World average (3.4). The country appears relatively weak on both the Access and Use scales, reflecting the fairly low levels of ICT development as of 2007, which have certainly improved in the past few years (as have those for most of the world). On the other hand, the Philippines is

³ end of 2009 estimate by providers to Intelcon.

strongest in the Skills index, which undoubtedly arises from the extensive role of ICTs in Philippine BPO and related activities. The strength in the Skills area suggests that there is considerable opportunity for improvement in the overall index, and in the role of ICTs generally in the country, in the near future

Annex D: Philippines Laws and Policies with implications for Universal Access to ICTs (1979-2005)

Policy	Year	Objective/Goal	Implications for UA
Executive Order 546	1979	Gave the NTC the power to effectively diffuse telecommunication facilities in the country, by maintaining effective competition among private entities whenever it finds it reasonably feasible.	The foundation of competition policies as a means for addressing problems of access
National Telecommunications Development Plan (1982-1987)	1982	To establish a high-capacity, standardized trunk transmission network that covered the whole country, and provide highly reliable telecommunications services To build an alternate transmission backbone through the Regional Telecommunications Development Project (RTDP) and the National Telephone Program (NTP)	To establish a high-capacity, standardized trunk transmission network that covered the whole country
Philippine Constitution of 1987	1987	Directed the state to “provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of information into, out of, and across the country...” (GoP 1987, Art. XVI, Sec. 10)	Recognized the “role of communications and information in nation building” (GoP 1987: Article II, Section 24).
DOTC Circular 87-188	1987	Its objective was to create an integrated national telecommunications network, under a competitive but regulated market environment (Abrenica 2000:150).	It mentions in general terms the need for universal essential services at reasonable rates
RA 6849- The Municipal Telephone Act	1989	Created the Municipal Telephone Project Office (MTPO) under the DOTC. Mandated the MTPO to develop, in coordination with other concerned agencies, a plan for providing calling stations with technology capable of voice and data transmission in every municipality, and where feasible, in such barangays not otherwise served by existing telephone exchanges using appropriate technology	Discusses the need for access to calling stations with technology capable of voice and data transmission in every municipality
National Telecommunications Development Plan (NTDP) (1990-2010)	1990	Set out the department's overall policies for the communications sector and established a comprehensive set of service-oriented targets through the year 2010 The plan had an aggressive privatisation stance and affirmed the government's intention to establish an open and liberalised market environment.	Identifies universal access targets in the long-term
Executive	1993	Required the “compulsory interconnection	Reflects importance of

Order 59		between NTC authorized public telecommunication carriers” (GoP 1993)	interconnection in enhancing the value of a network
Executive Order 109	1993	Introduced service obligation in the form of local exchange carrier (LEC) services. It required cellular mobile telephone service (CMTS) operators to install 400,000 landlines in five years upon implementation of the law. It also required international gateway facility operators (IGF) to put up 300,000 landlines in 3 years	Service obligations were specific to putting up a required number of landlines at a ratio of one line in a rural area for every ten in an urban area
Policy	Year	Objective/Goal	UA concept
RA 7925 – Public Telecommunications Policy Act	1995	Defined the areas that concern public authority and the market principles related to telecoms service. Mandated the privatisation of existing facilities and took into account the ownership structure of the telecoms entities in order to encourage efficiency and public accountability	Prioritised the expansion of basic services ⁴ to areas not yet served Emphasized the accessibility by persons to basic services in unserved and underserved areas at affordable rates.
IT 21	1997	Defined the broad principles and strategies mentioned in the previous National Information Technology Plan into more specific programs and activities, and delineated the roles of the government and the private sector in this endeavour	Discusses the roles of stakeholders in implementing universal access strategies
Administrative Order 232	1997	Instructs all government agencies and instrumentalities including local government units to undertake electronic interconnection through the internet.	Idea of the role of the Internet enters state policy
Executive Order 35	1998	Directed the National Computer Centre to design and build an integrated government information infrastructure.	Connected to developing a nationwide backbone to access the internet
Executive Order 264	2000	Merged the National Information Technology Council and the Electronic Commerce Promotion Council to create the Information Technology and Electronic Commerce Council in 2000	Issue of convergence enters policy
Alternative Communications Program	2000	Established a telecentre and payphone program. These strategies were referred to as the <i>Telepono sa Barangay</i> and the Community E-Centre Program.	Telecentres in all municipalities and provide access to public payphones in all barangays in the country.
MTPDP (2001-2004)	2001	The government intends to maximize the benefits of ICTs for the country’s development.	Introduced more indicators of access: Provide high-speed, broadband transmission

⁴ The term ‘basic services’ here is vague. On one hand it can be taken as basic telecommunication services, but on another it may not simply imply access to telecommunications services with the implicit idea that telecommunications network provides access to other services as well.

			<p>services in all cities</p> <p>Install telecentres in all municipalities.</p> <p>Extend local exchange telephone service to at least 80 percent of the 1,602 municipalities/cities;</p> <p>Make available cellular mobile telephone service to 100 % coverage of major highways and corridors connecting provincial capitals & cities;</p> <p>Provide Public Telephone service, singularly or in clusters, to 35,000 unserved barangays;</p> <p>Increase the telephone density to 12.73</p>
Executive Order 269	2004	Creation of the Commission on Information and Communication Technology.	Signifies governments' awareness of ICT convergence. The commission is now the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, regulating and administrative entity of the government's for ICT development.
Memorandum on VoIP	2005	NTC memorandum for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) defines it as a value-added service, and can then be offered by non-public telecommunication enterprises	Revisits the spirit of what RA 7925 meant by services 'ordinarily provided' by public telecommunication enterprises (PTEs)
MTDP 2004-2010	2004		
Philippine ICT Roadmap 2006-2010	2006	The roadmap was created to provide the framework for 2006-2010 for providing policy direction and choices on ICT. It identified key initiatives to rally stakeholders around, and undertake initiatives that complement short and medium term ICT development plans of government.	
PhilCEC Roadmap 2008-2010		The roadmap provides lessons and future directions for the CEC program.	

Political Culture and Climate

The Philippine government system and political culture are rooted in its long history of colonial rule under Spain for more than 300 years, the Americans for over 40 years, and finally the Japanese for 3. As such it became the only majority Catholic country in the region, with a Church hierarchy that is deeply embedded in its politics. The Americans set up its government based on US-style democratic ideas that are evident in the Philippine constitution, that of providing strong protections for individual liberties. It was also the Americans that set up its educational system, and until now English remains the medium of instruction across almost all basic and higher education institutions.

What is uniquely Filipino is the patronage-style politics that continues to plague its governance, resulting in political dynasties in both local and national executive and legislative positions. Voter loyalties and preferences are organized around personalities, names, and lineage rather than issues, party platforms, and performance. It is common for members of the same family to occupy simultaneously a province's governorship, mayorship of some local towns, and congressional seats. When they hit their term limits the family members will run for each other's offices, in effect creating a round-robin of the same people across the different elected positions. For example in the province of Aurora, a national senator by the name of Angara has a sister in the governor's office, a brother in one mayorship, and a son in the sole Congressional seat.

The Philippine Government has three co-equal branches, the executive, legislature, and judiciary. A President and Vice President who are elected lead the executive branch for a 6-year term with no opportunity for re-election. Congress is comprised of a nationally elected Senate, and locally elected House of Representatives. Geographic districts determine congressional seats in the House of Representatives, with additional seats for "minority groups" that are presumably underrepresented in legislature through the districts. These seats are referred to as "party lists", organizations that are granted Congressional seats based on election results. Some of these party-lists start off as civil society organizations and move toward formal political representation in government. There are 24 Senators in the Senate, widely believed to be the most effective jumping off point towards running for the Presidency. Almost all of victorious Presidential candidates since Marcos was deposed spent at least a few years in the Senate.

By most accounts there is a vibrant organized civil society scene in the Philippines organized around a variety issues such as transparency and accountability in governance, environmental conservation, human rights, and education. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) operate largely independently of government and its actions are not controlled except to obtain licenses for tax exemptions. Many actively engage with government and the State has, in many ways, institutionalized CSO involvement in policymaking, to varying degrees of success. These relatively small organizations are connected through large networks of NGOs and CSOs seeking to coordinate efforts and collaborate on initiatives.

In general Filipino citizens are free to assemble and organize for political purposes. The country has a long history of active public engagement in politics, most famously; the public deposed dictator President Ferdinand Marcos through days-long peaceful protest in 1986. Since then, similar rallies have been held when people are deeply dissatisfied with the sitting President. A second, smaller People Power rally successfully ran off President Estrada two years into his 6-year term, while another attempt a few days later failed to re-install him. Public demonstrations are regular fare when there are important

policy decisions under review in Congress, during the State of the Nation address, or when a decision has been made by the President which some factions of the population might be unhappy about. The press is free to cover any and all expressions of discontent about government and its actions.

Enabled by individual freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, for a small country in Asia the Philippines has a long history of public opinion polling. Two polling institutions dominate political surveys, the Social Weather Stations Inc, which has been around for about 25 years, and the younger PulseAsia Inc. Market research firms also conduct national polls leading up to elections for candidates and political parties. Pre-election polls are ubiquitous during campaign season and are the bane of candidates who are faring poorly in popularity. There have been many attempts to silence the publication of survey results through formal complaints filed to the Commission on Election (COMELEC), and all have been unsuccessful. Most famously a version of the Fair Elections Act provided stipulations effectively censoring the publication or broadcasting of stories containing results of political surveys fifteen days prior to the election and a few days after election day. It would have effectively outlawed the conduct of exit polls completely as funding for such surveys usually come from large networks, and if they cannot cover its results then there is no reason to fund them. A formal appeal was filed in the Supreme Court, which quickly ruled in favor of the network and the polling institution, citing that the stipulations were in violation of basic Constitutional rights.

The Philippine citizenry considers as its most important political issues, corruption in government, the economy, and poverty. Grinding poverty in practically all parts of the country makes the economy, namely inflation, an important political issue.

Systemic corruption is rampant in many government agencies, and at any given point in time the news media are covering one or the other large corruption scandal. The most recent is a Senate inquiry into the system of corruption in the Philippine Army where the Chief of Staff is being accused of receiving \$1 million in cash pilfered from government funds upon leaving his position, in addition to the \$100,000 he receives every month for personal expenses. Over the past decade the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, National Development Authority, and the Office of the President have all been embroiled in their own large-scale corruption scandal.

References:

Ables, H.A. (2003). *Mass Communication and Philippines Society*. University of the Philippines Press:Manila.

Hofilena, C.F. (1998). *News for sale: The corruption of the Philippine media*. Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility:Manila.

Singapore

Chengting Mao

Weiyu Zhang

National University of Singapore

Population (2009):

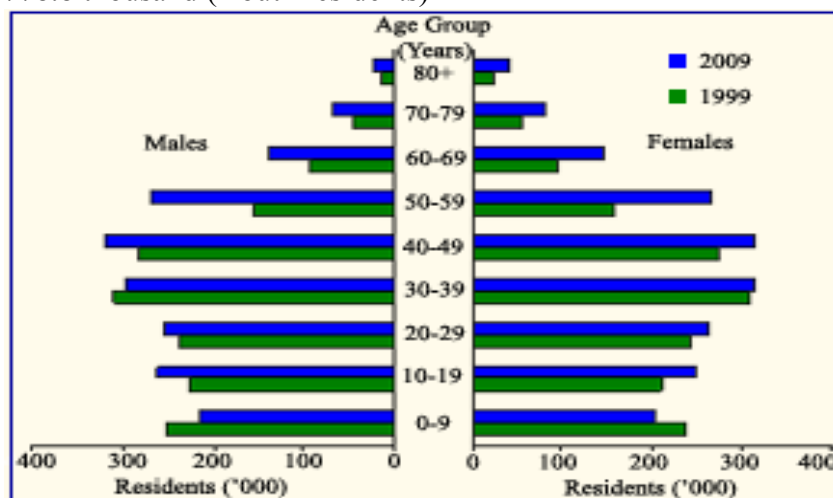
Total population: 4,987.6 thousand

Singapore Residents: 3733.9 thousand

Source: <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/stats/keyind.html>

Youth population (2009):

778.8 thousand (Youth residents)



Source: <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/stats/charts/popn-area.html#popnB>
<http://research.nyc.sg/facts.asp>

GDP (2009, at current market price):

265,057.9 million SGP Dollar

Per capita GDP: 53,143.0 SGP dollar

Source: <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/stats/keyind.html>

Economic Growth Rate (2009):

Annual Growth: -1.3%

Source: <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/stats/keyind.html>

Literacy rate (2009, among residents aged 15 yrs & over):

96.3%

Source: <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/stats/keyind.html>

Internet penetration rate (2010):

77.8%

Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/top25.htm>

Computer ownership (2009):

82%

Source:

http://www.ida.gov.sg/doc/Publications/Publications_Level3/Survey2009/HH2009ES.pdf

Mobile phone penetration rate (2009):

137.4%

Source: <http://www.ida.gov.sg/Publications/20070822130650.aspx>

Computer literacy:

NA

Policies regarding political engagement:

Government Regulations and Statutes:

1. Constitution of the Republic of Singapore:
Part IV: Fundamental Liberties
Part V: The Government
Part VA: Council of Presidential Advisers
Part VI: The legislature
Part VII: The Presidential Council for Minority Rights
Part VIII: The Judiciary
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/DisplayContent.pl?DOCID=1999-REVED-CONST&VID=931158661-004038&WEF=latest&TYPE=simple&mode=and&version=currentVersion&query1=civil%20participation
2. Parliamentary Elections Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-218&date=latest&method=part
3. Presidential Elections Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-240A&date=latest&method=part
4. Defamation Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-75&date=latest&method=part
5. Political Donations Act:
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/DisplayContent.pl?DOCID=2001-REVED-236&VID=983161648-000016&WEF=latest&TYPE=simple&mode=and&version=currentVersion&query1=political

Policies regarding Mass Media and New Media

2. MDA Policies and Guidelines

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PolicyandContentGuidelines/Pages/default.aspx>

Providing adults with a greater variety of choice while at the same time protecting the young – these are the two basic guiding principles that direct us when it comes to devising policies. In addition, guidelines and codes of practice create clear operating boundaries for businesses and help foster stronger growth for the industries.

This section provides an insight into how classification is carried out, the codes of practice and guidelines governing different types of media as well as licensing conditions and procedures.

Arts Entertainment

Plays and musicals, dance performances, exhibitions, concerts, variety shows, poetry and play reading sessions – these all fall under the category of Arts Entertainment. Except for certain types of arts entertainment which are exempted from licensing, all events open to the public require an Arts Entertainment licence.

Detail:

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PolicyandContentGuidelines/ArtsEntertainment/Pages/default.aspx>

Films and Videos

Policies for Films and Videos allow for flexibility and co-regulation with industry players. For example, the Dual Rating Policy gives distributors the option to screen two versions of the same movie, while the Declaration of Content Concerns allows companies to recommend a rating and declare contentious contents in their submissions. These and other guidelines streamline procedures for film and video classification.

Detail:

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PolicyandContentGuidelines/FilmsandVideos/Pages/default.aspx>

Publications and Audio Materials

Publications and audio materials are largely industry self-regulated. MDA works closely with the industry by issuing content guidelines, carrying out training sessions on content matters and conducting dialogue sessions with the aim to create a socially responsible media industry.

Detail:

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PolicyandContentGuidelines/Publications/Pages/default.aspx>

TV

Various guidelines for broadcasters have been established to ensure high programme standards and to create opportunities for growth. The guidelines vary depending on the size of viewership and whether the service is available for free or on a paid-for basis. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in influencing children's television viewing choices and habits.

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PolicyandContentGuidelines/TV/Pages/default.aspx>

Audiotext

All audiotext service providers are automatically licensed under the Class Licence scheme and need to comply with the Class Licence conditions. They also need to be registered with MDA. Audiotext service providers – including those who offer chatline services – also need to comply with the Audiotext Code of Practice.

Detail:

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PoliciesandContentGuidelines/Pages/Audiotext.aspx>

Internet

A balanced and light-touch approach has been adopted to ensure that minimum standards are set for the responsible use of the Internet while giving maximum flexibility to industry players to operate. Industry self-regulation and public education efforts are also encouraged.

Detail:

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PoliciesandContentGuidelines/Internet/Pages/default.aspx>

Radio

To ensure that programmes are of high quality and are acceptable to the majority of listeners, MDA has put in place content and advertising guidelines for radio stations operated by both local and foreign broadcasters.

Detail:

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PoliciesandContentGuidelines/Radio/Pages/default.aspx>

Video Games

The various policies and guidelines relating to video games provide a clear framework in which video game distributors can conduct their business and distribute titles in Singapore.

Detail:

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/Policies/PoliciesandContentGuidelines/VideoGames/Pages/default.aspx>

3. Government Regulations and Statutes:

1. Cinematograph Film Hire Duty Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-40&date=latest&method=part
2. Computer Misuse Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-50A&date=latest&method=part
3. Copyright Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-63&date=latest&method=part
4. Electronic Transactions Act 2010:
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/DisplayContent.pl?DOCID=2010-ACT-16-N&VID=1273111737-000278&WEF=latest&TYPE=simple&mode=and&version=currentVersion&query1=electronic
5. Films Act

http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/DisplayContent.pl?DOCID=1998-REVED-107&VID=913859638-000008&WEF=latest&TYPE=simple&mode=and&version=currentVersion&query1=political

6. Info-Communications development authority of Singapore Act:
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?actno=REVED-137A&doctype=INFO-COMMUNICATIONS%20DEVELOPMENT%20AUTHORITY%20OF%20SINGAPORE%20ACT%0A&date=latest&method=part&sl=1
7. Internal Security Act Part II:
Chapter III – special powers relating to subversive publications, etc.
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_getdata.pl?actno=1963-REVED-143&doctype=INTERNAL%20SECURITY%20ACT%0A&date=latest&method=part&sl=1&segid=888373124-000120#888373124-000444
Chapter IV – control of entertainments and exhibitions
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_getdata.pl?actno=1963-REVED-143&doctype=INTERNAL%20SECURITY%20ACT%0A&date=latest&method=part&sl=1&segid=888373124-000120#888373124-000575
8. Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-149&date=latest&method=part
9. National Computer Board Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-195&date=latest&method=part
10. Newspapers and Printing Presses Act:
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-206&date=latest&method=part
11. Public Entertainments and Meetings Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-257&date=latest&method=part
12. Singapore Broadcasting Authority Act:
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-297&date=latest&method=part
13. Telecommunication Authority of Singapore Act
http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-323&date=latest&method=part

Policies regarding New Media:

1. <http://www.ida.gov.sg/Policies%20and%20Regulation/20060418215057.aspx> Information Economy Policies & Frameworks

Legal and Policy Environment for Information Economy

The Singapore Government believes that the growth of e-society, e-government and e-commerce requires transparent and market-favourable regulation and legislation. The legal, regulatory and business environment required to promote industry development and growth in the digital economy are also significantly different from those needed for traditional enterprise.

This presents challenges to the government that must adapt national and international policies to the new digital economy. We must ensure that our laws, which are designed for an earlier and different environment, remain relevant and do not unnecessarily impede the development of new and innovative services in the new environment. Regulations that are necessary should strike a balance between protecting consumers and promoting industry development, while not hampering the growth of new markets.

New policies and regulations should also be flexible enough to cater for technology changes and new global policy. The government will also continue to encourage industry self-regulation where feasible.

Some of the legal and regulatory policy measures currently in place include:

- Electronic Transactions Act and Regulations
- Public Key Infrastructure and Licensing of Certification Authority
- Consumer Protection
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Computer Misuse Act
- Domain Names
- Spam Control Framework

2. <http://www.ida.gov.sg/Policies%20and%20Regulation/20060419195938.aspx>

Regulatory Policies and Frameworks

- [Interconnection & Access](#)

Interconnection refers to the linking of communications networks to ensure that users of one communications network can access the communications networks and services of other telecommunications operators. Interconnection is necessary to promote effective competition in a multi-network, multi-operator environment.

- [Spectrum & Numbering Management](#)

As the telecommunication industry regulator, IDA controls the numbering resource and manages the National Numbering Plan. The Plan provides a set of rules and guidelines for allocating numbers to public telecommunication service

operators. The Spectrum & Number Management ensure the adequacy of telecommunication numbers for use in Singapore

- [Mobile Phone Base Stations and Radiofrequency Radiation](#)

The Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore (IDA), as the telecommunications regulatory authority, regulates the use of radiofrequency (RF) spectrum in Singapore. In particular, IDA requires its licensees to comply with prescribed technical specifications, such as the emission power of mobile phone base stations, so that base stations operate within the standards developed by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

- [Licensing](#)

- [Competition Management](#)

One of IDA's roles as a regulator is to promote and preserve the competitiveness of the telecoms sectors in Singapore. It enforces the regulatory requirements imposed on licensees of the telecoms sectors and ensures that they do not engage in any anti-competitive behavior. In particular, IDA enforces the competition frameworks (such as Telecom Competition Code and Accounting Separation Guidelines), ensures that licensees comply with the established price control framework & regulation and minimum Quality of Service standards and reviews mergers and acquisitions.

- [Next Generation Nationwide Broadband Network](#)

Pursuant to the Singapore Next Generation Nationwide Broadband Network (Next Gen NBN) Request for Proposal for NetCo and OpCo issued by IDA respectively, IDA selected OpenNet Pte Ltd (OpenNet) to design, build and operate the passive infrastructure for the Next Gen NBN and, Nucleus Connect Pte Ltd (Nucleus Connect) to design, build and operate the active infrastructure for the Next Gen NBN.

- [Equipment Registration Framework](#)

This framework outlines the procedures to be followed and requirements to be fulfilled by equipment suppliers seeking to register their telecommunication equipment for sale and use. Details are given in the document entitled "Guide for Registration of Telecommunication Equipment".

- [The Singapore Common Criteria Evaluation and Certification Scheme](#)

The SCCS provides a cost effective infrastructure for info-communications companies to evaluate and certify their security products against the Common Criteria (CC) standard (ISO/IEC 15408) in Singapore. The framework is based on the Common Criteria Arrangement on the Recognition of Common Criteria Certificates in the field of Information Technology Security (CCRA).

3. <http://www.ida.gov.sg/Policies%20and%20Regulation/20060523181717.aspx>

Codes of Practice and Guidelines

Codes of Practice

- [Telecom Competition Code](#)
- [Code of Practice for Next Generation National Broadband Network NetCo Interconnection](#)
- [Code of Practice for Next Generation Nationwide Broadband Network OpCo Interconnection](#)
- [Code of Practice for Info-communications Facilities in Buildings \(COPIF\)](#)
- [Code of Practice for Internal Wiring](#)
- [Premium Rate Services Code](#)
- [Postal Codes of Practice and Notifications](#)

Guidelines

- | Accounting | Separation | Guidelines |
|--|------------|------------|
| - | | Telecoms |
| - Postal | | |
| • Contract Period and Early Termination Charges Guidelines | | |
| • Deployment and Repair of Submarine Cable Systems | New | |
| • Dispute Resolution Guidelines | | |
| • Reclassification and Exemption Guidelines | | |
| • Telecom Competition Guidelines | | |
| • Telecom Consolidation Guidelines | | |
| • Tender Offer Guidelines | | |

4. <http://www.ida.gov.sg/Policies%20and%20Regulation/20060418214814.aspx>

Acts and Regulations:

Acts Relating to IDA

Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 137A)

The Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 137A) covers matters such as:

- The establishment, incorporation and constitution of IDA;
- The functions, duties and powers of IDA; and

- The staff, finances and assets of IDA.

There is currently no subsidiary legislation under the Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore Act.

Telecommunications Act (Cap. 323)

The Telecommunications Act (Cap. 323) covers matters such as:

- Licensing of telecom systems and services and grant of spectrum rights;
- Erection, maintenance and repair of telecom installations;
- IDA's powers to issue codes of practice, standards of performance, directions and advisory guidelines relating to telecom systems and services;
- Telecom cable detection work;
- Ownership and management controls over designated telecom licensees; and
- Offences and penalties relating to telecom systems and services.

Postal Services Act (Cap. 237A)

The Postal Services Act (Cap. 237A) covers matters such as:

- Licensing of postal services for the conveyance of letters;
- Postal services and systems;
- IDA's powers to issue codes of practice, standards of performance, directions and advisory guidelines relating to the post; and
- Offences and penalties relating to the post.

Other Acts

Electronic Transactions Act (Cap. 88)

The Electronic Transactions Act (Cap. 88) covers matters such as:

- Electronic records, signatures and contracts;
- Secure electronic records and signatures;
- Regulation of specified security procedures (such as digital signatures) and their providers (such as Certification Authorities);
- Use of electronic records and signatures by public agencies; and
- Liability of network service providers.

Useful links:

<http://theonlinecitizen.com/2006/12/review-the-politics-of-singapores-new-media-in-2006/>

<http://www.i-policy.org/2010/06/new-singapore-e-government-masterplan-to-connect-with-the-people.html>

<http://singaporemedia.blogspot.com/>

BBC news profile:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1143240.stm#facts

Youth Policies

1. National Youth Council of Singapore Statutes/Legal Acts <http://research.nyc.sg/statutes.asp>

The Children and Young Persons Act (CAP. 38) covers children below the age of 14, young persons who are aged 14 and above but below 16. The definition of juveniles is also given as those who are 7 years or above and below the age of 16 years.

The Act is provided for the protection of children and young persons. Provisions are also available for the handling of juvenile offenders in juvenile courts and approved homes.

These are certain government regulations that are specific to teenagers:

Alcohol

Minimum age for purchasing alcohol - 18 years of age

Chewing Gum

The sale of chewing gum is banned in Singapore but its consumption is not.

Driving

Minimum age for obtaining a driver's license - 18 years of age

Drugs

Consumption of drugs is an offence and a heavy penalty awaits offenders.

Education

Education up to Primary 6 is compulsory

Identity Card

Once a citizen of Singapore reaches the age of 15, he/she needs to register for an Identity Card

Marriage

A Special Marriage License is needed for people below the age of 18 who want to get married. For Muslim marriages, the minimum age is 16 and parents must be present if the male is below 21 years of age.

Movies

Legal minimum age for movies categorised as Restricted Artistic R(A) - 21 years.

National Service

All male Singapore citizens and permanent residents (PR) who reach the age of sixteen and a half years old are liable for National Service. They are required to serve two or two and a half years of full-time service and up to 40 days of National Service every year until the age of 50 (for senior officers) or 40 (for junior officers).

Nightclubs

Minimum age for entry into nightclubs - 18 years

Sex

Minimum age to engage in sexual intercourse - 16 years

Smoking

Legal minimum age for the purchase of cigarettes or to smoke in a public place - 18 years of age

2. Government Regulations and Statutes:

1. Employment Act Part VIII – Employment of Children and Young persons

http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-91&date=latest&method=part

2. Children and Young Persons Act:

http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/non_version/cgi-bin/cgi_retrieve.pl?&actno=Reved-38&date=latest&method=part

Historical Development of Mass Media

Print Media

Given Singapore's high rates of affluence and literacy, it has had and continues to enjoy equally high rates of newspaper readership for its technically well laid out and attractive newspapers.

As of 2008, there are a total of 16 newspapers in active circulation. Daily newspapers are published in English, Chinese, Malay, and Tamil. The major newspapers and their daily circulations in rank order are: 1. *The Strait Times*, 2. *Lianhe Zaobao*, 3. *Lianhe Wanbao*, 4. *Shin Min Daily News*, 5. *The New Paper*.

Until the early 2000s all of the local daily newspapers were owned and operated by the publicly owned Singapore Press Holdings (SPH), which almost monopolized the daily newspaper market. In an effort to provide a modicum of competition to various publications belonging to the SPH, the government has licensed the entry of a newspaper (*Today*) from the newly formed Media Corporation of Singapore (MCS). In 2002, the Minister of Information, Communications and the Arts announced that a new agency, the Media Development Authority (MDA) would supervise all forms of media operating in Singapore, including newspapers.

The press in Singapore, in addition to functioning on the basis of the expectation that it help foster national interests as defined by the government, is also under the latter's strict supervision, as it has to operate within a number of legal constraints. The principal and most comprehensive piece of legislation that affects print publications is the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act (1974) or NPPA. This legislation allows the Singapore government to wield a three-pronged strategy in controlling the press, its ownership, personnel and ultimately, published content. And a 1986 amendment to the NPPA allows the government's Ministry of Communication to reduce the number of copies circulated in Singapore of any foreign publication that was labeled as engaging in domestic politics.

Besides, the government exerts a variety of means of censorship over newspaper. These include official criticism (hectoring and scolding newspapers for the nature, style and tone of certain content along with the insistence of an automatic right of reply) as well as administrative and managerial (e.g., a senior and long standing government intelligence official was placed in charge of a major newspaper), commercial (management shares can only be owned by government approved individuals) and legal (licensing; the threat of libel lawsuits) weapons.

Politically, the Singapore government continues to be dominated by the People's Action Party (PAP), and the PAP-led government has played an active role for over three decades in controlling and directing the mass communication media of the country by making sure that they did not become focal points for criticism and opposition. Two English language daily newspapers, *Eastern Sun* (accused of being backed by Communists) and *Singapore Herald* (accused of being overly critical of various government policies such as compulsory national service) were closed down. Personnel associated with the Chinese language daily *Nanyang Siang Pau* were detained for stirring up racial prejudice. Later, pressure was brought to bear on local newspapers against covering or publicizing the tiny opposition parties and their leaders. Foreign publications regarded as meddling in local politics were targeted for reductions in circulation, sued for libel and their correspondents not given work visas. The general approach to the press by the Singapore government can be seen to embody features of what many observers characterize as its customary and unapologetic "soft authoritarianism" on all sectors of, and matters pertaining to, the republic.

Broadcast Media

Television broadcasting began in February 1963 with a pilot service run by the Department of Broadcasting under the Ministry of Culture. In August 1965, Singapore separated from Malaysia and television broadcasting became a state-run operation under Radio-Television Singapore (RTS). In 1980, RTS became the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), a statutory organization under the Ministry of Communication and Information, following the adoption by the Singapore Parliament of the Singapore Broadcasting Act of 1979. It subsequently incorporated into the Singapore International Media (SIM) group of companies on 1 October 1994 and was later renamed Media Corporation of Singapore (MCS) and is 100 % owned by the Singapore government.

MCS currently runs four core direct-to-air television stations (broadcasting programs in the four official languages), a regional news channel (Channel News Asia), a teletext service, an outdoor television channel for commuters and public areas. In terms of its radio holdings, it controls 11 core stations (programming in all official languages), another that broadcasts specifically to certain groups within Singapore's expatriate population (Japanese, German, and French programming) and a foreign service, Radio Singapore International. The earlier broadcasting monopoly of MCS is also being challenged by the entry of SPH into the television market in 2001 with two news channels in English and Chinese.

Radio and television media have historically been under government control in Singapore. They are subjected to strict censorship to perform its national building role. According to former Minister of Information and the Arts George Yeo, censorship is "a sense of what is important for Singapore", and must be at the core of the establishment broadcasting media in Singapore.

Since most of the local media are directly or indirectly controlled by the government through shareholdings of these media entities by the state's investment arm Temasek Holdings, they are often perceived as pro-government, just as William Gibson's *Disneyland with the Death Penalty* described Singapore's newspapers as "essentially organs of the state."

Historical Development of New Media

Singapore as a small densely populated island nation is the pioneer, and continues to be one of the few countries in the World in which broadband internet access is readily available to just about any would-be user anywhere in the country, with connectivity over 99%. In a government-led initiative to connect the island in a high-speed broadband network using various mediums such as fibre, DSL and cable, the Singapore ONE project was formally announced in June 1996, and commercially launched in June 1998. By December 1998, Singapore ONE is available nationwide with the completion of the national fibre optics network.

In 1997, commercial trials for Singapore Telecommunications' (SingTel) ADSL-based "SingTel Magix" service were undertaken in March, before being launched in June. Also in June, Singapore Cable Vision commenced trials for its cable modem based services, before being commercially deployed in December 1999. Singtel's ADSL service was subsequently rolled out on a nation-wide scale in August 2000.

In January 2001, the Broadband Media Association was formed to promote the broadband industry. By April the same year there were 6 broadband internet providers, with the total number of broadband users exceeding 300,000. Pacific Internet introduced wireless broadband services in October 2001.

In 2007, Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) of Singapore introduced a programme named "Wireless@SG". It is part of its Next Generation National Infocomm Infrastructure initiative. Users can enjoy free, both in-door and outdoor seamless wireless broadband access with speeds of up to 1 Mbit/s at with high human traffic. As at June 2007, there are more than 460,000 subscribers and 4,200 hotspots under the Wireless@SG programme. In the same year, M1 introduced its mobile broadband services.

Since 1981, when the National Computer Board was formed the infocomm sector has since become a significant contributor to Singapore's gross domestic product. The sector maintained robust growth through the Asian financial crisis. Between 1998 and 2000, the industry grew by nearly 30 per cent to reach a value of \$26 billion. In 2000 alone, the industry contributed almost \$11 billion to the economy, representing seven per cent of the year's GDP. The telecom segment accounted for 48 per cent, followed by hardware retail at 20 per cent, IT services at 17 per cent and software at 12 per cent.

Singapore has been profoundly influenced by the convergence of communications and IT. This development provided the impetus for the merger between the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore and the National Computer Board to form the Infocomm development Authority of Singapore (IDA) in December 1999. In November 2001, IDA was transferred from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to MITA. By putting IDA and the Singapore Broadcasting Authority (SBA) under one ministry, Singapore will be better positioned for the next phase of convergence between IT, telecommunications and broadcasting.

Since its birth, IDA has spearheaded the liberalization of Singapore's telecommunications sector. It built a regulatory and policy framework that promotes competition, and implemented a host of initiatives to further the development of Singapore's infocomm industry. To promote healthy competition in the liberalized market, the Code of Practice for Competition in the Provision of Telecommunication Services (also known as the Telecom Competition Code) was introduced in September 2000. Besides defining minimum requirements to protect end users, the code also set clear boundaries for competitive behavior in the marketplace to facilitate the rapid entry of new players.

To encourage mass adoption of broadband, IDA encourages the development of value-added broadband applications and services for all settings through its Home, Work and Learning Environment Initiatives. IDA also promotes partnerships among local, regional and international players to come up with high-quality broadband applications.

The Singapore IT Federation established the e-Learning Competency Center in May 2001 with funding from IDA and the Ministry of Education. The center seeks to provide market intelligence, and propagate and promote e-learning standards, certification and adoption. In June 2001, IDA launched the Infocomm Training Framework to give every segment of the population the opportunity to acquire critical infocomm skills.

Internet services provided by the three major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are subject to regulation by MDA, which blocks a "symbolic" number of websites containing "mass impact objectionable" material, including Playboy and YouPorn. In addition, the Ministry of Education, Singapore blocks access to pornographic and similar objectionable Internet sites on its proxy servers.

In 2005, the MDA banned a gay website and fined another website following complaints that the sites contained offensive content. The banned website is said to have promoted promiscuous sexual behavior and recruited underage boys for sex and nude photography.

Government agencies have been known to use or threaten to use litigation against bloggers and other Internet content providers. The first instance of such activity was against Sintercom in July 2001 when the founder, Dr Tan Chong Kee was asked to register the website under the nascent Singapore Broadcast Authority Act (now Media Development Authority). Dr Tan chose to shutdown Sintercom due to concerns over the ambiguity of the Act. In April 2005, a blogger, Chen Jiahao, then a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was made to apologise and shut down his blog containing criticisms on government agency A*STAR, after its Chairman Philip Yeo threatened to sue for defamation. In September 2005, 3 people were arrested and charged under the Sedition Act for posting racist comments on the Internet. Two were sentenced to imprisonment.

In the last few years, the government has taken a much tougher stand on Internet-related matters, including censorship. Proposed amendments to the Penal Code intend to hold Internet users liable for "causing public mischief", and give the authorities broader powers in curtailing freedom of speech.

Political Culture and Climate

Singapore possesses a distinct political culture, which is centralized, authoritarian, and statist, and also pragmatic, rational, and legalistic. Singapore's leaders were highly articulate and expressed their principles and goals in speeches, books, and interviews. Their highest goal was the survival and prosperity of their small nation. They saw this as an extremely difficult and risk-filled endeavor. Conscious of the vulnerability of their state and aware of many threats to its survival, they justified their policy decisions on the grounds of national survival. They viewed government as an instrument intended to promote national ends and recognized no inherent limits on government concerns or activities. They prized intellectual analysis and rational decision making, and considered their own decisions the best and often the only responses to problems. The senior leadership prided itself on its ability to take the long view and to make hard, unpopular decisions that either responded to immediate dangers or avoided problems that would become apparent one or two decades into the future. They valued activism and will, and tried to devise policies, programs, or campaigns to deal with all problems.

Civil society in Singapore is largely a state-sanctioned sphere of engagement that has emerged in response to middle-class pressure for greater political liberalization. In these accounts, the space of civil society is described as an arena that is shaped by the state, and in which the state constantly intervenes. The term 'civic society' is preferred by the ruling party (PAP) because it emphasizes civic responsibility in contrast to the rights of citizenship implied by the concept of civil society. In this conceptualization, rather than being a space in which individual rights are protected, civic society is understood as a space in which the state's vision of national values of 'nation, family, community, consensus, and harmony' is expressed.

While the ruling party is responsible for determining the limits of the OB markers ('Out-of-Bounds markers'), this is largely done retrospectively—most of the time what actually constitutes 'unacceptable political engagement' is unclear. And the PAP encourages civil society actors to model their actions on the government's cues and to see themselves as partners rather than combatants.

Despite a parliament modeled on Westminster-style democracy, the PAP has effectively restricted the growth of a participatory parliamentary system, and instead fostered a 'mass society' characterized by a lack of political institutions between the state and the people; that is, that Singapore lacks an effective civil society. In these accounts, the space of civil society is described as an ineffective arena for democratization because it was created by the state, and the state constantly intervenes in it.

In these accounts of Singapore's civil society, a clear binary emerges—state/civil society—in which the state occupies a powerful and determining role. According to the state's own rhetoric, civil (civic) society is a space created by the state for the purposes of harnessing the citizenry towards the state's developmentalist goals. The state determines who gets to participate in civil society and on what terms. According to the PAP's logic, civil society does not exist independently of or without the interventionist role of the Singaporean state—it is a PAP creation.

Since Singapore's Independence, the PAP has reversed the societal agenda. Instead of giving priority to building political institutions, it set about building the economy, tampering with various conventional democratic values along the way, with the exception of the electoral process.

And Civil Society organizations are severely restrained by the Societies Act, which threatens organizations with de-registration if they make political comments beyond

issues of interest to their respective constituencies. This neutralization of interest groups provides the PAP and the ruling elite with unprecedented and unopposed power.

All these have significantly reduced public and political participation in Singapore and created a climate of political apathy, which has alienated the citizenry from political activity.

Accordingly, political deliberation has been limited to the provision of useful ideas or practical help through official channels sanctioned by the government. Indeed, the country's numerous citizens' committees and community centers serve to promote popular support for the government rather than function as true deliberative forums. Hence, there has been a discernible lack of public debate on national goals. This state of affairs has been characterized as "a state of de-politicized citizenry more intent on avoiding the wrath of the government than on publicly airing political views and challenging the ruling government. But as long as people had jobs, homes and security, they were willing to accept the government's mantra of 'in PAP we trust' and leave the decisionmaking to the political elite.

And according to the Freedom House (2001), a non-profit organization that has published country ratings of political freedom since 1972, those with ratings average 1 to 2.5 are generally considered *free*, 3 to 5.5 *partly free*, and 5.5 to 7 *not free*. The rating is an average of the scores of political rights and civil liberties. In their report, *Freedom in the World – 2001-2002*, Taiwan was scored 1.5, South Korea won a score of 2.0, and Singapore was rated at 5.0.

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